

Thousands rally for homeless in Atlanta

BY KATE DAHER

ATLANTA — Chanting "Housing now!" and "Reagan, Reagan, don't you know? Homelessness has got to go!" thousands marched here February 27 as part of a "National Rally for the Homeless." Estimates of the size of the crowd by local media and police ranged from 8,000 to 10,000. March sponsors included the National Coalition for the Homeless and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

The call for a national rally here was initially issued in opposition to a proposal by Mayor Andrew Young. In preparation for the upcoming Democratic national convention here, he advocated creating a "safe-guard zone" in the city. Homeless people found there would be jailed.

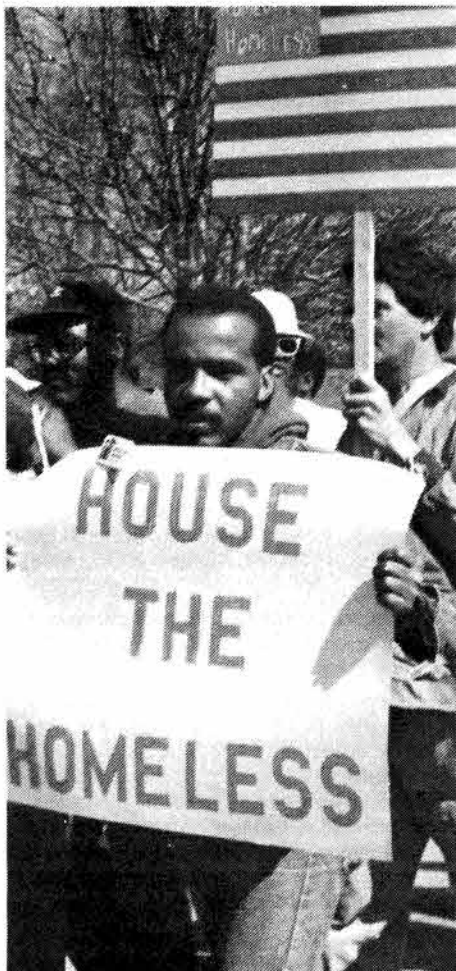
Buses and cars came from Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, New York, Massachusetts, Michigan, Colorado, and other states. Homeless people, among them youths, from many cities participated. Many campus groups and antiwar committees were out in force, as were churches and other organizations that work with homeless people.

Unionists participating included members of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Local 365. "No one should have to live homeless," one said.

"Money for jobs and housing, not contra wars," was a frequent chant on the march.

All Republican and Democratic presidential contenders were invited. Democrats Michael Dukakis, Richard Gephardt, Albert Gore, Gary Hart, Jesse Jackson, and Paul Simon spoke at the rally. Jackson received the most enthusiastic response.

The organizers called for legislation guaranteeing immediate, decent emergency shelter to homeless people; enforcement of existing federal programs that should aid homeless people; and increased funding for federal housing programs to at least 1981 levels.



Militant/Ellen Berman

February 27 national rally for homeless in Atlanta. Such actions help build solidarity with growing layer of working class without shelter.

Hands off Panama! Cuba, Nicaragua condemn U.S. threats

BY SUSAN LaMONT

Carrying out a move clearly stamped "Made in U.S.A.," Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle announced February 25 that he had dismissed Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, that country's central leader and head of Panama's army.

The move followed a February 17 meeting between Delvalle and Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Elliott Abrams in Miami. Initial reports from that meeting indicated Delvalle had refused to help in Washington's efforts to remove Noriega.

It is clear now that not only did Delvalle agree, but the whole maneuver was a U.S.-orchestrated operation that had been in the works for some time.

Washington has been on a concerted drive to bring down Noriega, who has refused to fall in behind U.S. objectives in Central America, especially its efforts to overthrow the Nicaraguan government. In early February the U.S. government went so far as to indict Noriega on drug charges. The Reagan administration is also trying to undermine the 1977 Panama Canal treaty, which returns the canal to Panamanian sovereignty at the end of 1999.

Col. Marcos Justines, army chief of staff, was named by Delvalle to replace Noriega on February 25. Justines, however, refused to accept the appointment, and, along with other senior army officials, stated his loyalty to Noriega.

The White House gave immediate endorsement to Delvalle's action.

Early the next morning, Panama's National Assembly...
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U.S. troops on maneuver in Panama earlier this year. U.S. rulers want a government in Panama that is more responsive to Washington's aims in Central America.

So. Africa crackdown spurs defiance

BY SAM MANUEL

In a sweeping move against opponents of the apartheid regime, the South African government has announced a ban on the activities of 17 major anti-apartheid groups. The February 24 decree includes banning the activities of the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the country's largest trade union federation, and the United Democratic Front. The 3-million member UDF is a nationwide coalition of anti-apartheid groups.

The new banning orders, issued under the nearly two year old state of emergency decree, confirms that the apartheid leaders have failed to check the growing opposition to their rule. Their action marks a new round in the regime's attempt to accomplish that goal.

Leaders of the democratic organizations in South Africa have vowed to defy the banning orders. Desmond Tutu was arrested February 29 along with UDF leader Allan Boesak while leading a march to defy the ban. A total of 150 people were arrested. The previous Saturday several hundred armed white rightists marched unhindered by police in Pretoria.

Tutu, an archbishop in the Anglican church, called the decree an attempt to "smash all possible political opposition in the country, no matter how peaceful or lawful, and to rule with the jackboot." Tutu and Boesak were released shortly after their arrest.

Boesak said, "Every single peaceful action we can take has now been criminalized." The UDF leader suggested that the government's motive for implementing the new measures now was to head off a boycott of nationwide township elections scheduled for October. The UDF has opposed participation in the apartheid-controlled township councils that are a form of

collaboration with the regime.

The banning order, published in the *Government Gazette*, prohibits the 17 organizations from "carrying on or performing any acts whatsoever." While the order stops short of formally declaring the 17 organizations illegal, it restricts their activities to keeping membership records, updating financial books, and performing "administrative functions."

COSATU singled out

The 1 million member Congress of South African Trade Unions was singled

out under a separate set of restrictions.

Under the new measures the union is forbidden to:

- Campaign for divestment from, or sanctions against, South Africa by foreign companies or governments;

- Call for the release of detainees or the legalization of outlawed political organizations such as the African National Congress;

- Mobilize opposition to the government-controlled Black township councils;

- Call for work stoppages on significant

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Israel's brutality protested, general strike greets Shultz

BY HARRY RING

In the wake of the furor created by the CBS TV footage of Israeli soldiers beating two bound Palestinian youths, the government indicated it may take the South African route — banning reporters and photographers from areas of confrontation.

Meanwhile, Israeli troops had slashed three captured Palestinians with razor blades.

Correspondent Timothy Phelps reported in *New York Newsday* February 28 that he interviewed the razor victims in the West Bank Balata refugee camp.

There, three brothers told him soldiers had come to their home a week previous, beaten them with clubs and took them to a police station. As they were being taken there in an army vehicle they were slashed on the face, neck, and hands.

"The slash marks were clearly visible yesterday," Phelps reported. A United Nations doctor told him that one youth re-

quired 15 stitches to close the wounds on his chin.

On February 23 the Gaza Attorneys' Association disclosed that a Gaza youth had been buried in sand nine days previous.

In an affidavit given from his hospital bed, Adel Ali Massoud of Khan Yunis said that he was taken from his home by soldiers the night of February 14 and, along with another Palestinian youth, taken to a nearby beach area.

"There," he affirmed, "they tied me to a jeep and dragged me while driving fast. Afterward they beat me again, and buried me in the sand, filling my mouth with the sand also."

The mounting incidence of such ugly brutality moved the International Committee of the Red Cross to an unusual public protest. Its vice-president charged that "thousands of people have been the victims of brutality and grave ill treatment at the

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Building long-term readership among rail workers

BY BOB CANTRICK

NEW YORK — Persistence pays off. A few months ago, the three of us who sell the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* at Penn Station here knew relatively little about the rail unions.

Penn Station is a big rail passen-

ger terminal located in the center of Manhattan. Our team goes there every week to talk to workers about the publications. Our objective is to build a long-term readership among the loco-

otive engineers, brakemen, line-

men, conductors, and others whose job it is to get tens of thousands of passengers to work and back every day on Amtrak, the Long Island Rail Road, and New Jersey Transit.

The team began by trying to

times of day to show up?

A few *Militant* and *PM* supporters also work for Amtrak and New Jersey Transit, some out of Penn Station. They too have been showing the paper to their coworkers. So our efforts complement each other. The supporters also help answer our questions about the rail unions.

At first the team only sold one or two papers or sometimes none at all. But after four or five tries, we noted that we had sold to several different workers. In the process, we had explained a thing or two about the *Militant*'s political outlook.

This is evidently having an effect. As more weeks go by, it seems to get easier. Interest has

picked up noticeably. The number of papers we sell has risen to four or five in a half-hour or 45-minute stint. Last time out we sold seven copies of the *Militant*.

Each week a few more unionists stop for a brief conversation or decide to buy a paper. Discussions we have also help lay the basis for future sales.

We have learned that rail workers are thinking about the same questions paperworkers, garment workers, coal miners, and meat-packers are trying to figure out.

Recently, a member of the team was talking to a conductor about the givebacks and concessions employers are demanding these days. This rail worker commented, "Did you see the thing about the *Post*

this morning?" He was referring to the threat by publishing baron Rupert Murdoch to close the *New York Post* unless the print unions give up \$24 million in concessions over the next three years.

The rail workers also want to talk about the major questions in world politics from the stock market crash to the Palestinian freedom struggle.

The rail bosses are beginning to take notice of our presence. Not long ago a cop who works for Amtrak tried to discourage us from selling there.

He said we'd have to apply to management for something called a "free speech" permit.

But with the response we're getting, we're not about to stop now.

SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

ger terminal located in the center of Manhattan. Our team goes there every week to talk to workers about the publications.

Our objective is to build a long-term readership among the loco-

find out some elementary things: how do you tell who works for what railroad? Which workers wear uniforms, which don't? How many rail unionists work out of Penn Station? What are the best

Renewal calls lead to good political discussions

BY NORTON SANDLER

"In past years I think there were many people who bought the *Militant* incidentally. I don't think that's the case so much now."

Wendy Lyons — a St. Paul, Minnesota, meat-packer — was relating her experiences during our current subscription renewal campaign.

Distributors of the *Militant* and the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial* are contacting workers and students who bought subscriptions last fall about resubscribing. Our goal is to build up the long-term *Militant* and *PM* readership. We also encourage everyone interested in these publications to purchase a copy of the Marxist magazine *New International*.

The current issue of *New International* includes the articles "The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop"; "Land, Labor,

and the Canadian Revolution"; and "Washington's 50-Year Domestic Contra Operation."

Lyons has talked to several subscribers on the telephone. "I start by asking what they think about the paper and it goes from there. If someone's not interested they let you know pretty quickly. In an hour and a half of renewal calling, you get into at least three long political discussions," Lyons said.

"Recently, I talked with a high school student who liked the *Militant*. She had been urging her history teacher to let a socialist speak in the class and wanted to know if I knew someone who would be available," Lyons reported.

After political discussions on the phone, Lyons said some readers encourage *Militant* and *PM* distributors to drop by their house and pick up their renewal. "More

often than not," she said, "people who want to renew say they'll send it on their own. In that case, I drop a renewal blank in the mail along with information about forums, classes, and other activities organized by *Militant* and *PM* distributors in the Twin Cities."

Over 150 Midwest meat-packers have purchased introductory subscriptions to the *Militant* over the past couple years.

Militant and *PM* distributors who are members of the United Food and Commercial Workers union, and other supporters of the publications in the Midwest, are beginning to contact the packinghouse workers about resubscribing, Lyons explained.

A few weeks ago distributors in New York organized a special effort one Saturday to call subscribers about renewing. These supporters took two-hour shifts making calls from the New York Pathfinder Bookstore. "Fourteen people said they were going to renew," distributor Nancy Rosenstock said.

"One Puerto Rican couple in the Bronx told us to come over and pick up a six-month renewal. They also purchased a copy of *New International*," Rosenstock explained. "One woman told us she wasn't going to renew because the *Militant* had 'too much labor coverage.'"

Newark, New Jersey, distributor Robert Dees has been concentrating on talking to *PM* subscribers. A reader told Dees she wraps up *PM* after reading it each month and sends it to a friend in Uruguay. "She was excited to find out that her friend could subscribe directly," Dees said.

Our business office in New York has received 423 *Militant* subscription renewals — 264 of them for six months or longer — since January. Twenty-seven readers have taken advantage of our special offer and purchased a copy of the current *New International* for \$3.50.

PM is a monthly, so many subscriptions sold last fall run for a few more months,

but we have received 27 renewals so far in 1988.

In the past couple of weeks distributors have also sent in 260 first-time subscriptions. And 82 *Militants* and *PMs* were sold at a February 27 demonstration in Atlanta protesting homelessness.

Last week we reported that 1,000 copies of the March 4 *Militant* were sent to Britain. That issue contained special coverage of the Communist League of Britain's conference in London where world politics, Cuba, and perspectives in Britain were discussed.

Within days, our British distributors contacted us about getting more papers. So we shipped them another 500.

We'll carry a full report soon on sales of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *New International* in Britain.

Kiko Martínez frame-up thrown out

A San Francisco federal appeals court has thrown out the 1986 perjury conviction of Kiko Martínez, a Chicano lawyer and activist from Alamosa, Colorado. Martínez has been the victim of a 15-year campaign by the U.S. government to frame him up and jail him.

The court decision is a victory for everyone's democratic rights.

The perjury charge stemmed from Martínez's use of a long-held alias at a 1980 hearing after his arrest on charges of returning illegally to the United States from a seven-year stay in Mexico.

By a 2-to-1 vote, the appeals court held January 28 that this did not constitute perjury because it did not involve a fact of material importance to the proceeding. The hearing concerned his need for court-appointed legal counsel.

The government resorted to trying to jail

Martínez on this basis after its decade-long attempts to frame him up on three separate charges of sending letter bombs had been exposed and defeated.

One of the letter-bomb charges ended in a mistrial when it was revealed that the judge and prosecutor were colluding to guarantee conviction. Another resulted in acquittal. The third was dismissed in 1984.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Gary Korn indicated the government might ask the court to reconsider its action in overturning the perjury conviction. The Justice Department has until March 11 to initiate an appeal.

Martínez says he will seek reinstatement as a lawyer if the decision stands.

He said of his 15-year ordeal, "It's been a heck of a good education about the legal process and about political repression in America."



Militant/Dean Peoples Meat-packer buying *Militant* at South Dakota packinghouse last summer.

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—Ben Dupuy

editor, *Haiti Progrès*, and chairman of Committee Against Repression in Haiti

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The *Militant*

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Court to hear gov't 'right to spy' appeal

BY FRED FELDMAN

NEW YORK CITY — The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit has set a schedule for the Justice Department's appeal of rulings by Judge Thomas Griesa. The rulings came in the suit brought by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance against the attorney general and federal police agencies.

The February 23 decision on scheduling calls for the submission of relevant trial records by March 14; the filing of the government's brief no more than four days later; a brief from the attorneys for the SWP and YSA by April 18; and oral argument as early as the week of May 9, 1988.

The day before this schedule was issued, Griesa ruled that the government must pay the SWP and YSA \$12,146.50 for the costs of obtaining daily transcripts of the proceedings in the 1981 trial. This was the full amount the two organizations had requested on this point, as part of their fight to make the government pay the lawyers' fees and court costs incurred in the long court battle.

The request for reimbursement for daily trial transcripts was justified, Griesa said, since the expense was a necessary one and "these plaintiffs prevailed on the issues which were involved in the greater part of the evidence adduced at trial."

The appeals court gave the government a two-week delay in filing its appeal. Justice Department lawyers had asked for 45 days, saying the extra time was needed to get the required approval from the U.S. solicitor general for the department's decision to appeal and the issues it plans to raise, and to allow adequate time to prepare.

The government's summary of the projected appeal, submitted in January, challenged an August 1986 ruling by Griesa. The government claims that FBI burglaries against the SWP and YSA, and the theft and photocopying of thousands of private documents, did not violate their Fourth Amendment right to be free of unreasonable searches and seizures.

The government asserts, in contrast to Griesa, that the use of informers against legal organizations carrying out constitutionally protected activities does not violate the First Amendment.

Attorney General Edwin Meese's lawyers also challenge the \$264,000 damages awarded the SWP and YSA. They claim that the award is barred by various technicalities and particularly by the "discretionary function" exemption of the Federal Torts Claim Act. The exemption holds that no damages can be obtained for federal actions in cases where officials may have acted improperly, but with due care and reasonably believing that their actions were properly authorized.

Griesa, however, ruled that "the violations of the Constitution in the present case rendered the acts in question non-discretionary."

"There can be no doubt," he explained, "that these disruption operations were patently unconstitutional and violated the SWP's First Amendment rights of free speech and assembly."

Finally, the government holds that Griesa exceeded his authority in issuing an August 1987 injunction barring the government from using information in the files illegally gathered by the FBI.



Militant/Osborne Hart

Socialists demand FBI files

Attorneys for the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance are calling on the FBI to release documents on the two organizations stemming from the agency's investigation of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES).

At the same time, attorney Leonard Boudin requested that the House committee planning to hold hearings on the FBI operation against CISPES call John Studer, or him, as a witness. Boudin heads up the legal team in the SWP and YSA suit against Attorney General Edwin Meese and federal police agencies.

Studer is executive director of the Political Rights Defense Fund, which has publicized and raised funds for the suit since it was filed in 1973.

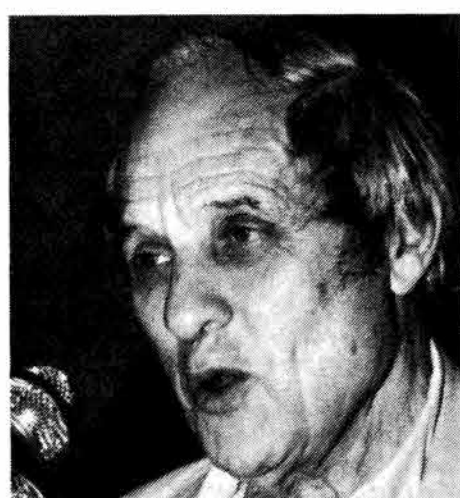
The FBI has admitted carrying out a wide-ranging investigation of CISPES and "limited investigation" of groups that have had contact with CISPES, citing allegations of involvement in "international terrorism" as a pretext. According to the FBI, the investigation began in 1981 and concluded in 1985. Although not a shred of evidence to support the charges was turned up, the investigation provided the framework for a campaign of disruption and intimidation against CISPES and other groups.

Boudin made the request to be called as a witness in a letter to Rep. Donald Edwards, who chairs the Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights, which is scheduled to hold the hearings.

"The issues posed by the FBI's apparent disregard for constitutional rights in targeting CISPES," wrote Boudin, "are the same as those posed by the Justice Department's Jan. 4, 1988, appeal filed against the historic rulings on behalf of political rights by Judge Thomas P. Griesa in the case *Socialist Workers Party v. Attorney General et al.*"

"In these appeals papers, the Justice Department argues that it is proper for the FBI to use informers and burglaries against political activists, even in situations where there is no evidence of criminal activity. Further, they claim that the FBI cannot be held liable for damages in situations where they do break the law."

Boudin cited Griesa's permanent injunction barring the FBI from making any use of information in the files it illegally collected on the SWP and YSA as "one of the unique victories won as a result of the SWP lawsuit." The government's initial steps to



Militant/Holbrook Mahn

Leonard Boudin

appeal Griesa's rulings have included moves to challenge the injunction.

"This injunction," Boudin continued, "is worthy of study by your committee as a model for action that could be taken to protect those whose names are currently in files assembled by the FBI in targeting CISPES. These individuals are guilty of nothing other than exercising their constitutional rights to free speech and association, and should not now have to fear any potential victimization because their names remain in FBI files."

"In addition," the attorney wrote, "some of the FBI files so far released as a result of the CISPES investigation show that the SWP and Young Socialist Alliance and some members of these groups were in fact targets of this operation."

Edward Copeland, another member of the socialists' legal team, demanded in a February 16 letter to the FBI that the agency release documents from the CISPES investigation relating to the SWP and YSA.

He cited the example of a report from the bureau's office in Norfolk, Virginia, that described FBI surveillance in 1984 of the offices of the SWP and YSA in Newport News.

The FBI claims not to have investigated the SWP and YSA since 1976, when then attorney general Edward Levi ordered that "national security" investigations of the organizations be ended.

In demanding the FBI documents, Copeland reminded the bureau that it is required under the Freedom of Information Act to respond to his request within 10 days. —F.F.

The following editorial, titled, "Defending Political Surveillance," appeared in the February 20 *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

Quietly, if not surreptitiously, the Justice Department has appealed a 1986 federal court decision protecting the privacy and free speech rights of political groups with unorthodox views. The thrust of the government's appeal is that the Federal Bureau of Investigation should be allowed to spy on such organizations.

One would hope that the Reagan administration would have come to terms with the Constitution's guarantees of the right to meet, organize and proselytize without names ending up in a police dossier. Sadly, as the appeal shows, it has not. It insists that the government should be allowed to infiltrate political groups with paid informants, to conduct surreptitious burglaries in the name of national security and to maintain files on people it concedes were engaged in lawful political activity.

The appeal was filed in New York in a case involving the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance, which has successfully sued to win damages and to halt the FBI's 40-year war against the two organizations. At the trial of the Socialist Workers Party's suit, it was established that the FBI had used paid informants to infiltrate the two groups, had ordered break-ins at party offices around the country, had engaged in a scheme to disrupt and discredit the party and had maintained extensive files on party members.

The Socialist Workers Party embraces the theory of revolution as a means of

achieving an egalitarian society, and this belief apparently was the basis for the FBI operation. Yet, the FBI never uncovered a single instance of unlawful activity by any of the party's 1,000 or so members.

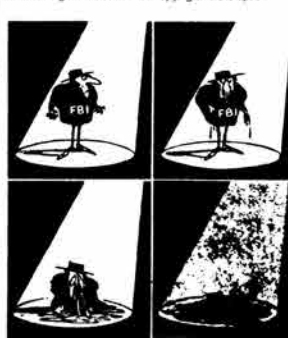
In rulings in 1986 and 1987, U.S. District Judge Thomas P. Griesa found that the FBI had trampled on the constitutional rights of the party and the Young Socialist Alliance and he prohibited the government from making any use of the information in the 10 million files it had assembled. He also ordered the government to pay damages of about \$250,000.

That the government would appeal the ruling is not in itself surprising. There could be numerous points on which the Justice Department would have valid differences with Judge Griesa's decision. But the bases of the appeal — that it is proper to use paid informants to penetrate a lawful political organization, that national security considerations justify burglaries and that there is nothing harmful about keeping dossiers on people because of their political beliefs — reveal a shocking insensitivity to basic rights.

If the Reagan administration believes these practices are acceptable, Americans have every right to suspect the FBI is still engaged in them. Indeed, the recent disclosures of FBI surveillance of groups opposing President Reagan's Central America policy bear out that suspicion. Under the circumstances, is Congress going to continue to settle for mere assurances and guidelines, or will it at last mandate criteria that bring an end to the use of the FBI as a national political police?

A Fight for Political Rights

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Behind the U.S.-Canada trade pact

New 'free trade area' a protectionist move for North American industry

BY SUSAN LaMONT

On January 2 President Ronald Reagan and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney signed a new trade agreement between Canada and the United States that, according to Reagan, will create the "world's largest free-trade area." To be enacted, it must be approved by both Congress and the Canadian Parliament.

New trade agreements between the United States and Mexico were also announced in early January. Though less far reaching than the U.S.-Canada pact, they also move in the direction of easing trade restrictions between the two countries.

Supporters of these new trade agreements contrast them to "protectionist" trade proposals, such as the Gephardt amendment currently being considered by Congress as part of a general trade bill. This amendment was introduced by Missouri representative and Democratic presidential candidate Richard Gephardt.

Why are these new trade agreements being reached now? And what is their significance for working people?

Trade with Canada

Canada is a highly industrialized country with a population of some 26 million. Like the United States, it is ruled by a tiny class of super-rich industrialists, bankers, and capitalist landowners, who are closely linked economically, politically, and militarily to their counterparts in this country.

Trade between the two countries amounts to more than \$150 billion a year, making Canada and the United States the biggest trading partners in the world. Some 80 percent of Canada's exports go to the United States, and 20 percent of U.S. exports go there. Lumber and wood products, cars, wheat, and oil are among Canada's largest exports.

If approved, the new U.S.-Canada trade pact will eliminate nearly all tariffs and other trade barriers between the two countries over the next 10 years.

(A tariff is a charge or duty put on imports by a government in order to increase the cost of imported items in relation to domestically produced items. For example, a tariff on imported cheese, beer, paper, or cars would increase its cost to the buyer as against a similar domestic product.)

The new pact will also ban import and export quotas between the two countries on most products. These quotas set numerical limits on the import or export of given commodities. For example, Japanese car makers face a "voluntary" import quota on the number of cars they can export to the United States. The quota was 2.3 million last year.

The new pact assures the "fullest possible" trade of oil, coal, and other energy sources between the two countries and eases numerous restrictions on cross-border investment. Investors in each country would be allowed free access to each other's markets.

The pact will also simplify customs procedures, and sets up a five-person tribunal to settle disputes that cannot be resolved by arbitration.

Congress is expected to consider the agreement later this year. If approved, it would go into effect Jan. 1, 1989.

Supporters of the new agreement explain that capitalists on both sides of the border will benefit.

U.S. manufacturers won't have to pay the higher Canadian tariffs that are now levied against many goods exported to that country. U.S. manufacturers will be better able to compete with certain Canadian industries that receive government subsidies. For Canadian manufacturers, the advantages are mainly greater access to the gigantic U.S. market, which is 10 times larger than their own.

Supporters of the pact also contend that it will lower prices and create more jobs in both countries.

Growing trade with Mexico

Under the new trade agreements between Mexico and the United States, increased steel, clothing, and textile imports from Mexico to this country will be al-



Canadian postal workers (left) on strike last year, and California cannery workers, whose 18-month strike ended last March. The new U.S.-Canada trade pact won't benefit workers on either side of the border.

Kurt Ellison/Register-Pajaronian

lowed, and U.S. exports to Mexico of items including beer, chocolate, linoleum, and agricultural seed will be expanded.

Mexico, a country of almost 82 million, is already a major U.S. trading partner. It is the third-largest importer of U.S. goods, after Canada and Japan. And it is the United States' fifth-largest supplier, after Canada, Japan, West Germany, and Taiwan. It is the third-largest supplier to the United States of crude oil.

In 1986 Mexico joined the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, an international trade agreement that is supposed to keep tariffs and quotas among participating countries low and uniform. Mexico has since been reducing tariffs and eliminating other trade controls in an effort to expand its exports of manufactured goods.

Mexico, however, unlike Canada, is a semicolonial country whose economy is dominated by imperialist banks and manufacturers, mainly from the United States.

Mexico's \$105 billion foreign debt — the second largest in Latin America after Brazil — is owed largely to U.S. banks. The *maquiladoras* — some 800 assembly plants on the Mexico-U.S. border that employ more than 250,000 Mexican workers at extremely low wages — are 90 percent U.S.-owned. U.S. corporations also control most of the auto, rubber, mining, chemical, and other basic industries in Mexico.

Mexico is reeling from the deepest economic depression since the 1930s, complete with runaway inflation, a staggering debt burden, decline in real economic growth, and growing unemployment. Severe austerity measures, which hit Mexico's toilers hardest, were imposed last fall.

North American trading bloc

Even before his election in 1980, Reagan began promoting the idea of a "North American accord" or "North American common market."

He repeated this theme in his State of the Union address January 25. "Our goal," he said, "must be a day when the free flow of trade — from the tip of Tierra del Fuego to the Arctic Circle — unite the people of the Western Hemisphere in a bond of mutually beneficial exchange; when all borders become what the U.S.-Canadian border so long has been — a meeting place, rather than a dividing line."

Leaving aside that the U.S.-Mexican border is hardly a "meeting place" for Mexican toilers trying to cross it, or other rhetorical excesses in his speech, Reagan was trying to describe a real objective for major sectors of the U.S. ruling class.

The new U.S.-Canada pact and the U.S. trade agreements with Mexico are steps in the direction of creating not a "free trade zone" but a *protected* North American trading bloc. The purpose of this bloc is to strengthen primarily U.S. and Canadian capitalists in relation to their Japanese, European, and other imperialist competitors, as well as to keep out cheaper manufactured goods from semicolonial countries such as South Korea and the Philippines.

An example of how the new "free trade zone" will work to protect U.S. and Canadian industry against their competitors is going on right now.

Hyundai Motor Corp., a South Korean auto manufacturer, has been expanding its share of the Canadian and U.S. car market in the past several years. In 1987, it accounted for nearly 5 percent of all cars sold in Canada. Hyundai projects selling 500,000 cars in North America in 1988, a big percentage of its total worldwide sales. The Korean company has nearly finished a \$255 million assembly plant near Montreal, Quebec.

Two weeks ago, a Canadian government agency found Hyundai guilty of "underpricing" its cars by an average of some 26 percent, a practice known as dumping. The hearing concerning this matter has now entered a second phase, in which it will be determined whether or not Hyundai will have to pay large penalties because of "material damage" done to General Motors and Ford by the dumping. A ruling against Hyundai could encourage similar proceedings against it in the United States.

The new U.S.-Canada trade bill requires Canadian manufacturers seeking duty-free car sales in the United States to prove that at least 50 percent of their vehicles' value was incurred in "direct costs of manufacture" in North America. Hyundai or other "non-North American" companies with plants in Canada would be at a disadvantage because of this requirement since more of their cars' components would come from outside the United States and Canada.

In the face of increasing international price competition, GM, Ford, and Chrysler — the "Big Three" auto manufacturers that dominate the car industry in both the United States and Canada — will use the new U.S.-Canada pact to try to beat out their other competitors.

Another purpose of the new Canada-U.S. pact will be to help North American industries muscle their way into countries where they now face restrictions. By forming a more powerful North American bloc

that can threaten to keep goods from other countries out, they can force other countries to accept their exports.

U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker calls this a "club of free-trading nations," one that would keep out products from countries that do not reduce their barriers to North American imports. "Other nations are forced to recognize that the United States will devise ways to expand trade — with or without them," Baker said in a February 8 speech designed to bolster support for the U.S.-Canada pact.

Such an approach will help U.S. capitalists with their current efforts to force Japan to accept more U.S. agricultural exports and to allow U.S. firms to bid on construction projects in Japan.

No "free trade"

Reagan promotes the idea of a North American "free trade zone" in contrast to the "protectionist" Gephardt amendment now before Congress. That amendment would require countries that export more goods to the United States than they buy from the United States to reduce their trade surpluses to this country by 10 percent a year. If they fail to do so, their goods would be hit with a series of new duties. Like supporters of the U.S.-Canada pact, backers of the Gephardt amendment claim it will help "American" workers by saving U.S. industry.

The reality is that both these proposals are designed to "protect" U.S. industry against its international competitors.

The capitalist world is dominated by powerful trading blocs, such as the European Common Market, which try to protect themselves from their competitors by tariffs and other measures. "Free trade" — the absence of government barriers to trade between countries — simply does not exist.

The North American "free trade zone" will come complete with tariffs, duties, import quotas, antidumping regulations, and other measures aimed at the rest of the capitalist world.

Working people in this country have no interest in supporting protectionist measures, whether of an "American" or "North American" variety.

Backing such measures reinforces the false idea that we are "American," "Japanese," "French," "North American," or "European" workers who have different interests. This is an obstacle to seeing ourselves as part of a world working class with a common exploitation and a common enemy regardless of what country we happen to live in.

U. Mass. protests hit racism

BY NAOMI CRAINE
AND DAVID WARSHAWSKI

AMHERST, Mass. — Students at the University of Massachusetts continue to organize against racist violence. On February 19 close to 1,000 students rallied and marched to the campus administration building here to celebrate a victory in their fight against racist attacks on campus and to demand a two-day moratorium on classes in response to continuing racist attacks.

The moratorium took place February 23 and 24. Rather than boycotting classes, students encouraged teaching assistants and professors to organize discussions on racism and sexism or cancel classes so students could participate in other discussions. More than 50 workshops, classes, and other events were organized. Thousands of students wore multicolored ribbons to show their support.

In the days before the February 19 rally, five Puerto Rican students were kicked and spat upon by four white students, who called the victims "Cuban bastards." A Black female student was verbally harassed by five white males. Five Black women had racist flyers slipped under the doors of their dormitory rooms. The flyers read "Black nigger bitch." And an all-white fraternity renamed its house "New Ireland House" in response to the occupation of New Africa House by Black students last week.

The six-day occupation of New Africa House by nearly 200 Black, Latino, and other minority students that began Feb-

ruary 12 was carried out in response to two earlier racist incidents. Two Black men and one white woman were beaten by five white men February 7. The night before, seven Black students were randomly rounded up by campus police for a lineup. All were subsequently released.

Although the building takeover was prompted by the two attacks, protesters pointed to the long-standing racist climate at the university. "We have organized to put an end to institutionalized racism on the campus," said Roscoe Robinson, a spokesperson for students involved in the occupation. "It is clear to us that our safety as Black and Third World students at the university is in question," he said.

The occupation ended in victory, with university administration officials pledging swift punishment for racist violence or

harassment; renovation of New Africa House, including removal of asbestos; a 50 percent increase in minority student recruitment; new classes on the history and culture of Blacks, Latinos, Asians, and Native Americans; ethnic foods to be provided in the cafeteria; and the establishment of a monitoring committee to make sure the changes are made.

Organizers of the protest pointed out that one of the reasons the administration gave in was the unity between Black, Latino, and white students. Pablo Penaloza, president of a Hispanic student organization, stressed the importance of white students joining the protests, "showing it is not just a struggle of minority students, but a struggle of all persons who believe in equality."

Student leaders are discussing calling another moratorium in the spring that will involve even more students and faculty.



Militant/Margrethe Siem
Amherst student leader Roscoe Robinson

Fired for views, professor speaks out

BY MAREA HIMELGRIN

NEW YORK — "Blacks get pushed out of Stony Brook college all the time, but you're the first to fight back," a student told Prof. Fred Dube at a recent meeting at Hunter College here.

The meeting was called to support Dube, a leader of the African National Congress who has been denied tenure at the State University of New York at Stony Brook because of his political views. Sponsored

by the Hunter College Rainbow Coalition, the meeting drew more than 50 students.

"I went to Stony Brook and transferred here to Hunter," the student continued. "People out there had a hundred different ways to tell me, as a young Black woman, that I just couldn't make it at Stony Brook."

Inspired by Dube's defense effort, she along with 14 other Hunter students signed up to join the campaign to fight for Dube's tenure.

"This all started," Dube explained, "when a visiting Israeli professor learned that in a class that I was teaching at Stony Brook we were discussing Zionism and racism. Without talking to me or any of my students, he launched a slander campaign against me that resulted in my being denied tenure."

"They seem to think that students' minds are a blank slate that Professor Dube can come and write whatever he pleases on," he continued. "That's why this is an issue of academic freedom — do professors at Stony Brook have the right to challenge students to think, and do students have the right to think for themselves on political questions like the relationship of Zionism and racism?"

Dube described the different forms racism takes. Liberals, he said, "think that while a Black man's body grows, his mind does not, and he should therefore be treated as a child." This provoked a particularly thoughtful response from the students.

One student finally asked, "But what about the whites, like Joe Slovo, who are leaders of the African National Congress, aren't they liberals?"

"No!" exclaimed Dube. "They are fellow fighters who have treated me with respect for the 32 years that I have been a member of the ANC."

The Israeli government's repression of the Palestinian uprising taking place in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip was central to the evening's discussion at Hunter College.

Student groups at Borough of Manhattan Community College and the State University of New York at Purchase have invited Dube to speak in early March.

"I can't wait!" Meg Hall, a member of the Young Socialist Alliance at SUNY Purchase, told the *Militant*. "I know we can build a really good meeting for him."

Students and other youth, inspired by Dube's fight against racism and for academic freedom are collecting signatures on petitions demanding tenure for Dube and pursuing other speaking engagements for him.

At the SUNY Stony Brook campus itself, 400 people recently attended a meeting in support of Dube sponsored by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

For more information on his fight, write the Committee to Support Prof. E. Fred Dube, 126 W. 119th St., New York, N.Y. 10026.

Socialist youth conference to discuss economic crisis

BY GREG McCARTAN

NEW YORK — "The Socialist Youth and Activists Conference will be an excellent opportunity for young people to discuss how we can become part of the world struggle of workers and farmers against exploitation and oppression, and for socialism."

"This is why," said Rena Cacoullos, national secretary of the Young Socialist Alliance, "we invite students and young workers who are involved in brigades to Nicaragua, anti-apartheid demonstrations, the fight against racist attacks, the resistance of workers to employers' take-back demands, and CIA-off-campus protests to participate."

The conference, sponsored by the YSA, will be held April 2-3 at the University of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh.

The two-day gathering will include reports, workshops, and classes, and presentations from international fighters.

"We have been getting a good response from activists and other youth who are looking forward to and helping to build the conference," Cacoullos said. The YSA plans to field a team in Pennsylvania, northern West Virginia, and eastern Ohio to publicize the gathering.

At the center of the political discussions will be a discussion on why the October stock market crash signals a coming broad social crisis. This crisis "will mean wide-

spread unemployment, poverty, and social catastrophe for youth, workers, and farmers — something our generation has never seen," Cacoullos pointed out. The conference participants will discuss how working people internationally can unite in struggle.

"We will be able to discuss how we can most effectively oppose wars or repressive rule directed, funded, and supported by Washington against the Nicaraguan revolution, the Palestinian people, liberation struggles in southern Africa, and Iran," Cacoullos said. Conference participants will discuss expanding the number of young people who participate in brigades to Nicaragua.

"Key to understanding world politics today is learning about the Cuban revolution — the Cuban people's march forward to socialism," Cacoullos said. She visited Cuba in 1987 and spoke with young Cuban revolutionaries at the Union of Young Communists congress.

Conference workshops and classes will take up the fight against racist attacks, the fight to end all U.S. ties to apartheid, the roots of women's oppression, the struggle of the people of South Africa and southern Africa, and the struggles of workers and farmers in the United States today.

YSA chapters around the country are organizing transportation to the conference.

Lindsey Scott acquitted in retrial

BY GLENN FIDLER
AND SUSIE WINSTEN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Cpl. Lindsey Scott was found not guilty February 19 of all charges relating to the rape and attempted murder of a woman near the Quantico, Virginia, marine base. The verdict ended Scott's five-year fight against a racist frame-up.

The victim of the assault, a white woman, reported in April 1983 that she had been assaulted by a Black man. The military brass went after Scott, the only Black member of the Criminal Investigative Division at the base, although there was no physical evidence linking him to the crime.

"They took the first Black man that came along," said James Scott, the soldier's father. "They didn't look for anyone else."

The prosecution's case rested on the vic-

tim's identification of Scott as her attacker. She said she picked him out of a lineup because he "scared me the most." She never mentioned Scott's prominent gold front tooth in her descriptions of the assailant.

Scott was convicted at his first trial in October 1983 and sentenced to 30 years at hard labor. Evidence that he was 10 miles away at the time of the assault was never introduced.

The U.S. Military Court of Appeals overturned the conviction last July. The court cited the failure of Scott's attorney to competently prepare a defense concerning Scott's whereabouts. The second trial began January 25.

Scott's case became widely publicized. James Scott reports that meetings demanding that his son be freed took place in 40 cities.

The Young Socialist Alliance invites you to a national

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April 2 & 3

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other students, young workers, activists
Discuss**

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Nicaraguan revolution — Build more brigades!
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pression • Workers in struggle today • Rev-
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- ☐ I want to attend. Send more information.
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Clip and mail to YSA, P.O. Box 1235, New York, NY 10013.

Seattle antiwar activists divide over Democrats' contra aid plan

BY CHRIS HORNER

SEATTLE — A news conference held here March 1 at the offices of the Central America Peace Campaign urged support for the proposal to aid the Nicaraguan contras that is backed by top Democratic leaders in the House of Representatives.

The news conference was the latest stage of the discussion here among foes of the

See "Learning About Socialism" column on why all aid to contras should be opposed, page 14.

war against Nicaragua over how to respond to contra aid proposals now before Congress.

The debate has been spurred by Rep. Michael Lowry's reversal of his former stance of voting against funds for the contras. Lowry called the Democratic proposal "a positive package that really helps the peace process." The congressman has frequently spoken at antiwar rallies and teach-ins here.

The Democratic-backed measure to fund the contras provides \$30 million for the contra war. This includes \$3.6 million per month for the next four months for food, clothing, shelter, and medical care for the mercenary bands. Another \$360,000 per month is earmarked for operations targeting the Miskito Indians of Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast. Some \$14 million is purportedly to go for "children's survival assistance" in the contra camps in Nicaragua.

House Republicans are pushing their own \$36 million aid proposal. It allocates some additional money for trucks and communications equipment. While aid in the Democratic package would be delivered by the Pentagon, the Republican plan assigns the task to the CIA. The Republican plan authorizes President Ronald Reagan to seek new military aid on April 15 if no agreement is reached in cease-fire talks between the Nicaraguan government and the contras.

A proposal by Reagan, which included \$3.6 million in overt military aid to the contras, was voted down in the House in early February.

Leaders of the Nicaraguan government have criticized the proposals.

The Democrats' aid bill was scheduled to come to a vote in the House February 25, but Democratic leaders postponed the vote.

[As we go to press, the measures were scheduled to come to a vote March 3.]

Duncan Hansen, president of the Central America Peace Campaign, opened the news conference here by explaining it had been called to "announce we feel we have to support the Democratic contra aid compromise."

"What we see here is a tragic moral choice," Hansen said. "We do not feel enthusiastic, but we feel we have to make a choice that results in the least loss of life down in Nicaragua."

The vice-president of the peace campaign then read from a prepared statement put out by the organization: "One way to move toward ending the war against Nicaragua is to defeat the administration's con-

tra aid request by passing the compromise alternative instead."

She concluded, "We want to thank Rep. Mike Lowry for his courageous and creative leadership to prevent an escalation of the war against Nicaragua. It was because of his leadership that the proposal includes true humanitarian aid to the children who are the victims of this war."

Kraig Schwartz, speaking on behalf of the Emergency Coalition Against Contra Aid, said, "We are encouraged that the Democratic leadership in Congress has proposed \$14 million in humanitarian aid to Nicaraguan children. We see this as the kernel of a policy of reconciliation and efforts that we need to expand much further in the future."

"Unfortunately, Central American hopes for peace face a serious menace. The Republican proposal for contra aid would give control of Central American policy back to the Reagan administration."

David Fleishman of SANE explained, "SANE believes that if this proposal fails to pass, renewed military aid for the contras will certainly be forthcoming from the Reagan administration."

Miriam Spencer, representing the Pledge of Resistance, read from a prepared statement that opposed all contra aid. Referring to the packages up for a vote, she stated, "If this is really the only choice we can hope for, the lesser of two evils, it is a very sad comment upon the democracy we live under. As an organization we will continue to work for the cessation of all contra aid."

Spencer added, "While we are sorry that



Militant/Roberto Kopeck

Mothers hold pictures of victims of contras in October demonstration in Managua, Nicaragua. Democrats' "humanitarian" aid plan for contras, like Republican proposal, will finance contras' killing and destruction.

the Democratic package is the only alternative, at least it's better."

Jackie Wolf, another leader of the Pledge of Resistance, said that while the group could not support the Democratic package, it would not actively campaign against it.

Janet Duecy of the Labor Committee on Central America stated, "The Democratic alternative bill is currently the only viable alternative to Reagan's predominantly military aid substitute proposal for the contras."

Duecy concluded by urging "all advocates of peace in Central America to actively support the Democratic alternative for humanitarian aid. Call your congressman today."

How to respond to the contra aid proposals was also the theme of a February 25 meeting here of the Emergency Coalition Against Contra Aid, attended by 90 people.

A member of the coalition's coordinating committee read the position that body had voted to adopt.

The statement explained that the coalition was obliged to formally oppose the Democratic proposal in keeping with its stand against all contra aid. However, the coordinating committee held that the package was "a step in the right direction."

A poll taken at the meeting showed 43 in favor of the coordinating committee's proposal and 15 against.

Among those at the meeting who spoke in favor of continuing the fight against all proposals to aid the contras were Luis Benito of the Cuba Resource Group; John Rubinstein of the Socialist Workers Party; and Lt. Jo Bongiovi, a conscientious objector stationed at Fort Lewis.

U.S. actions back Palestinian struggle

1,000 in Brooklyn hear Arab leaders

BY GEORGES SAYAD

BROOKLYN, N.Y. — More than 1,000 people assembled here February 28 in solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The meeting was sponsored by the Committee for a Democratic Palestine and was held in Arabic.

A large banner reading "Long live the uprising of our people in Palestine" adorned the stage. On one side of the platform hung a Palestinian flag, on the other the Lebanese flag, symbolizing the bonds of solidarity forged in struggle between the two peoples.

A representative of the Lebanese National Resistance Front spoke.

The Palestine Liberation Organization representative said the rebellion signaled a new stage in the struggle of the Palestinian people against Israeli occupation. He pointed out that mobilizations of Palestinians are also taking place in the parts of Palestine conquered by Israel before 1967.

The PLO representative stressed the importance of the refusal of Palestinian leaders to meet with Secretary of State George Shultz during his "peace mission" to the Middle East.

Also represented at the meeting were the Popular Unity Party of the Yemen Arab Republic, and the Cuban, Vietnamese, South West Africa People's Organisation of Namibia, and African National Congress of South Africa missions to the United Nations. Representatives of the Palestine Solidarity Committee, Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression, and National Alliance of Third World Journalists also attended.

A "National Demonstration in Solidarity with the Palestinian Uprising," to be held in Washington, D.C., March 13, was announced.

Picket lines and forum held in N. Carolina

BY JOHN COCHRAN

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Protest demonstrations were held here and in Winston-

Salem against the Israeli repression of the Palestinian people.

There was also a successful February 14 meeting on the Palestinian uprising, sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum and featuring Dr. Hatem Hussaini, a member of the Palestine National Council, the Palestinian parliament in exile.

Eighty people joined in a picket at the downtown post office here January 22, and 30 marched in Winston-Salem February 5.

Both demonstrations were well received by passersby, many of whom expressed outrage at the Israeli beatings of Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The demonstrations were sponsored by the General Union of Palestinian Students and the Islamic Committee for Palestine. Leaflets were distributed detailing the atrocities committed by the Israeli army and settlers.

In his talk at the Militant Labor Forum February 14, Hussaini began by scoring Washington's decision to shut down the Palestine Liberation Organization mission to the United Nations.

Broad panel in Atlanta discusses struggle

BY HELEN LOWENTHAL

ATLANTA — More than 70 people gathered at the Martin Luther King Community Center here to hear a broad panel of speakers discuss the Palestinian struggle in the West Bank and Gaza Strip against Israeli military rule. Several Palestinians from Atlanta welcomed the opportunity to discuss the recent weeks' events and the background of the fight.

Hatem Hussaini addressed the February 20 meeting. He was formerly the director of the Palestine Information Office in Washington, D.C., recently closed by the State Department. He presently represents the Palestine National Council. Hussaini pointed out that no terrorist acts had been committed in the United States by Palestinians. Yet the State Department has labeled the Palestine Liberation Organization as "terrorist" and shut down its information office, violating the First Amendment rights of the U.S. citizens who work in the office. He called on the people of the United States to demand that Washington

stop funding the Israeli repression of Palestinians.

Other speakers included representatives from the Atlanta chapter of the African National Congress of South Africa, Atlanta Committee on Latin America, Young Socialist Alliance, Palestine Human Rights Campaign, and Southeast Committee for a Democratic Palestine.

Katrina Breeding, an attorney who visited Palestine and Gaza in 1985, described the spirit of liberation among the Palestinian people she met there.

Mark Kolmann, a former officer in the Israeli army, expressed solidarity with the struggle against Israeli occupation. His brother is in prison in Israel for refusing to serve in Lebanon.

Sponsors of the meeting included the Militant Labor Forum, National Lawyers Guild, and Georgia Black Students Association.

Shultz greeted by mass strike

Continued from front page
hands of Israeli soldiers."

And on February 23, Amnesty International, the London-based human rights group, called on Israel to permit an independent inquiry into the beatings of Palestinians.

Meanwhile, in the West Bank, two Palestinian youths were killed as armed Jewish settlers joined army forces in attacks on the towns of Abud and Burqa.

In Jerusalem, an army spokesman acknowledged that the settler vigilantes had joined in the raid in which the two youths were shot to death in Abud. But, he added, it would be hard to determine who actually killed them.

"It's very difficult to say who shot," he explained, "because the settlers and the army have the same weapons."

And so, apparently, did a Palestinian informer who was killed after he opened fire with an Uzi submachine gun, killing a four-year-old child and wounding at least 13 others.

According to news accounts, residents of the West Bank village of Qabatiya marched on the man's home because he was an informer for the Israeli army. They reportedly hurled firebombs at the house

and he responded with gunfire.

After he and his family were removed from the house, it was burned down and he was killed.

A news dispatch said, "The fact that he had a licensed weapon assured that he had a relationship with the Israeli military, since he could not otherwise obtain a license."

It was reported February 19 that at least 75 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli gunfire or beatings. Yet all of this has been unable to stem the Palestinian uprising. The unflinching spirit of combat was typified by the near total response to the two-day general strike called to protest the visit of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

The Palestinian people saw the Washington "peacemaker" as, in fact, acting on behalf of their Israeli oppressors.

The strike action came in response to a clandestine leaflet issued by the Unified National Leadership for the Uprising."

From Jerusalem February 14, the *Washington Post* reported, "Palestinians today closed down virtually all shops, businesses, and transportation in the West Bank and Gaza, and almost all the estimated 120,000 Arabs who work in Israel stayed home."

'Che Guevara was a thinker'

New collection of Che's works welcomed in Philippines

BY PETER BRADLEY

MANILA, Philippines — "Che Guevara was not only a heroic guerrilla, but also a thinker, a very deep thinker. All his ideas are still alive in our society, despite the 20 years since his death." This was how Cuban Ambassador to the Philippines Ana María González explained the importance of Pathfinder's new book *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution*, at the Manila Book Fair on February 26.

This book launching was one of a number of meetings in North America, Britain, Australia, and New Zealand promoting Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia's publication of a new selection of speeches and writings by Che Guevara, a leader of the Cuban revolution.

More than 150 people attended what was one of the most widely publicized and successful special events at this year's book fair. The meeting represented a broad range of political forces, including central leaders of the May 1 Movement (KMU) militant union federation and the Peasant Movement of the Philippines (KMP).

KMU Chairman Crispin Beltran told the *Militant* that attending such a gathering was a "rare opportunity," as "Che has inspired so many people throughout the

world, including the Filipino workers. I for one have been inspired by his proletarian revolutionary theories and by his practice."

Three representatives of the Vietnamese embassy, including Second Secretary Do Ngoc Son, also attended the meeting.

Ninety-year-old ex-senator Lorenzo Tañada, a prominent opponent of the Marcos regime, was a keynote speaker. Tañada described himself as "a student and admirer of Cuba — its people and its leaders." He stressed the "many interesting parallels between Cuba and the Philippines," such as their Spanish colonial past, followed by U.S. economic and political domination.

But these historical parallels began to diverge dramatically after the Cuban revolution of 1959, he said.

The revolutionary government under Fidel Castro, Tañada pointed out, then "began to build an entirely new Cuba, dismantling all the well-entrenched political and economic structures that kept Cuba under the domination of its giant neighbor to the north." Quoting Fidel Castro, Tañada explained that all this "could not have been possible without a revolution."

"Those of us who are concerned over the Philippines can fruitfully learn from Cuba

through books on that revolution," Tañada concluded.

Dr. Wilfredo Villacorta of De La Salle University focused on the chapter in the book on political sovereignty. Che, Villacorta said, explained why Cuba had to take the socialist road. He quoted Guevara:

"How can anyone think that a revolution that was born defending workers' rights, which had been trampled underfoot for many years, would sit back and wait for the solution to the problems from private foreign investment capital. . . . This was a road of exploitation. In other words, another road had to be found."

"This," commented Villacorta, "is food for thought for us Filipinos who have just celebrated the second anniversary of the February [anti-Marcos] revolution."

Felicissimo Patayan, national vice-chairman of the KMP, pointed out that this was the first book launching of *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution* to be held in a Third World country, where people are struggling for freedom. "This book is a must for those involved in struggle, and gives us all the inspiration we need," Patayan said.

This reporter, a participant in the 1988



Militant/Russell Johnson

Anna María González, Cuban ambassador to the Philippines, spoke at February 26 meeting, which took place during Manila Book Fair.

Australia-New Zealand work brigade to Cuba, described how tens of thousands of Cubans are today engaged in voluntary work, building child-care centers, apartments, and schools. I stressed how Che had seen voluntary work as the key to "creation of a new human being, as the building of a new and just society has to be the work of the mass of the people themselves and of conscious human beings."

Mario Bolasco of St. Scholasticas College also emphasized this aspect of Guevara's activity and pointed to his "boundless faith in humanity."

Deborah Shnookal, representing Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia, chaired the meeting and announced that a Philippine edition of *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution* would soon be available, making the book considerably cheaper.

The gathering, overwhelmingly young, swarmed around the Pathfinder literature table. In the midst of the rush to buy the book of Guevara's writings and a broad range of other books and pamphlets, a young woman seemed to be stating the obvious when she commented, "There's a real hunger for this type of literature here." She herself carefully thumbed through each book on the table, selecting every second or third one for a pile she intended to buy.

By the end of the evening, the table had been almost stripped bare. Nearly US\$1,000 of books and pamphlets were sold at the meeting and the book fair on that day alone.

Ninety copies of *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution* were sold during the 10-day book fair. More than US\$3,500 of Pathfinder books and pamphlets were sold.

Both the Che Guevara book launching on February 26 and Pathfinder's participation in the book fair, February 20-28, received considerable press coverage in the local media, including the *Manila Chronicle*, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, and the *Manila Standard*.

Paperworkers launch southern caravan

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

CAMDEN, Ark. — It was standing room only, as more than 400 unionists and people from the community packed into the paperworkers' union hall here February 23 for a labor solidarity rally. The union hall sits next to the 60-year-old paper mill owned by International Paper Co.

IP is demanding sweeping concessions from the United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) and International Association of Machinists locals that organize this mill. Claiming that the mill is old and worn out, IP wants a wage cut, "total flexibility from the front gate to the back gate" to move workers to any job, elimination of premium pay for Sunday work, and more use of outside contractors. These are similar to demands the company has been making at its mills around the country, including the four where 3,400 workers are on strike or locked out in Jay, Maine; Mobile, Alabama; De Pere, Wisconsin; and Lock Haven, Pennsylvania. (The Camden workers' contract expired February 27. As of March 1, they were continuing to work.)

The rally was held to welcome a caravan of IP workers from Mobile and to gain support for the fight against IP's push against the workers at the Camden mill and elsewhere.

The paper company has hired the strikebreaking BE&K construction firm, which has erected barbed wire fences around the mill here, and helped install a surveillance system. IP has also taken out full-page antiunion ads in local papers.

Faye Moss, secretary of UPIU Local 275 here, told the *Militant* that IP sent a letter to mill workers claiming that BE&K is only doing construction work. But mill workers know differently. Some 800 BE&K scabs are currently working in the company's Mobile mill, where 1,200 union members have been locked out since last March. "Until IP comes across, we say no. BE&K doesn't have enough people to run all these mills," Moss said.

At the solidarity rally, Tommy Drummond, president of UPIU Local 275, began the program, saying, "I'm proud for the stand that the Mobile people took when they decided to take on the giant IP. They didn't have any guarantee that they would get support for their fight. They led the way."

Other speakers at the rally included UPIU members from Mobile and Texarkana, Texas; J. Bill Decker, president of the Arkansas AFL-CIO; UPIU regional representative Wayland Brown; and local politicians.

The Mobile workers are stepping up their fight against IP by organizing a solidarity caravan that is traveling throughout Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida, and Alabama. It will wind up in Birming-

ham on March 30, with a rally in front of the national headquarters of BE&K.

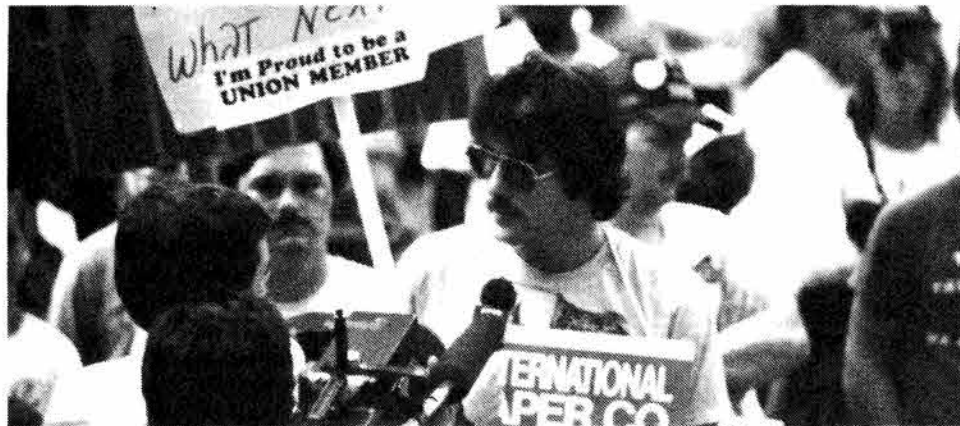
After a kick-off rally in Mobile February 17, the caravan was on its way. Wayne Fischer, vice-president of UPIU Local 2650 in Mobile, explained that the caravan would distribute literature at paper mill and factory gates, hold press conferences and labor rallies, and "educate the public about IP's corporate greed" in the towns along its route.

The first stop was Moss Point, Mississippi, where caravan participants leafleted at an IP mill and held a rally. Workers at

that mill were forced to take concessions in their last contract.

The caravan then went on to Texarkana, where paperworkers from the IP and Great Northern Nekoosa mills accompanied the Mobile workers in their activities. The United Rubber Workers hosted a press conference, and more than 500 unionists and others attended a rally held at the International Chemical Workers union hall.

At the rally, John Anthony, president of UPIU Local 1149 in Texarkana, presented \$1,100 to the Mobile workers, bringing the total it has contributed to the locked-out workers to more than \$48,000.



Militant/Dennis Koncewicz

Mobile, Alabama, paperworkers at September 1987 protest.

600 at Boston rally greet Maine strikers

BY JON HILLSON

BOSTON — A standing ovation and chants of "Scabs out, union in" from nearly 600 people greeted 29 striking paperworkers from Jay, Maine, as they mounted the stage for a spirited labor solidarity rally held here February 19.

The rally was attended by unionists, students, and political activists from the area, and was sponsored by the Massachusetts AFL-CIO. It took place at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 103 hall, and more than 100 Local 103 members attended.

Nearly \$13,000 was raised for the paperworkers at the event from more than two dozen unions.

Striker Sandra Robinson described the stakes in the paperworkers' fight against International Paper Co. Another Jay paperworker, Armand Metivia, told the crowd about a series of increasingly dangerous chemical leaks from the company's Jay mill. A striker's wife, Shirley Couture, also spoke.

Alabama State Sen. Henry Sanders, who is Black, brought a message of solidarity from workers at International Paper's

Mobile, Alabama, mill, who have been locked out since last March. Even though there are scabs from Alabama working in Jay, Sanders said, "those scabs do not represent the people of Alabama. We are with you."

Lai Mi Yu, a member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, brought the crowd to its feet with a salute to the strikers, translated from Chinese, from the Chinese Progressive Association and the dozen Asian ILGWU members who were with her. "All of us workers," she said, "have to unite to defend our standard of living and our democratic rights."

A contingent of rail workers who are on strike at Guilford Transportation Industries in New England came to the rally.

While most of those present were workers, a significant number of students also attended. Nine students drove 90 miles from Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts, to attend the rally; they had heard about it from a caravan of Jay strikers touring their area several weeks earlier.

A number of Central America peace activists came to the paperworkers' rally after receiving a leaflet about it at a speech given

by journalist Alexander Cockburn the evening before. Jay caravan members had attended that meeting. They were introduced from the stage and received a long standing ovation.

Other speakers at the rally included Jay paperworkers' local President Bill Meserve; Audrey Epstein, a Tufts University student; Ray Rogers of the Corporate Campaign; Frank Meyers, head of the Northeast Council of the AFL-CIO; Tom Evers, head of the Massachusetts Building Trades Council; and Domenic Bozzotto of the hotel worker's union.

Before the solidarity rally, delegations of paperworkers attended a reception sponsored by Central America solidarity groups; met with officials from the ILGWU; and spoke with 300 students at Boston University. A February 19 plant-gate collection at General Electric in Lynn, Massachusetts, netted more than \$1,800.

The caravan, which received extensive media coverage, met Boston Mayor Raymond Flynn and Massachusetts governor and presidential candidate Michael Dukakis at official receptions. They presented the caravan with official proclamations of support.

Interview with Arthur Scargill, head of miners' union in Britain

BY KATHY MICKELLS

BARNESLEY, England — "The election was a clear demonstration that members at the pits [mines] support a fighting policy and a campaigning union."

Arthur Scargill was explaining his January 22 reelection as president of Britain's National Union of Mineworkers (NUM). He was opposed by John Walsh, a North Yorkshire union official.

I was able to talk to Scargill about the election and the situation in Britain's coalfields during a February 3 interview here.

Britain's mines are nationalized — that is owned and operated by the government.

Since being elected president of the union in 1981, Scargill has sought to mobilize the union membership against attacks by British Coal (formerly called the National Coal Board) and the Conservative Party government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

1984-85 strike

The NUM fought over a year-long strike battle in 1984-85 against the government's plan to close mines it claimed were unprofitable.

The miners' strike received broad support from working people in Britain and internationally. The Conservative government viciously attacked the strike, even having the union's funds impounded.

A number of trade union officials undercut solidarity with the NUM. This included officials from the electricians' and steelworkers' unions who urged their members not to honor NUM picket lines at the power plants and steel mills where coal was being shipped during the strike.

The leadership of Britain's Labour Party gave the embattled miners lukewarm support. Some miners, particularly in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire, scabbed during the strike. They later set up an organization called the Union of Democratic Mineworkers (UDM).

Despite a determined fight by NUM members and their supporters, the miners were forced to return to work without winning their major demand. Since then, British Coal management has closed more than 70 mines and eliminated more than 80,000 jobs.

There are now 102 mines operated by British Coal. The NUM organizes 100,000 British miners. The UDM represents 17,000.

"Their intention initially," Scargill said, "is to have an industry with 70 pits, 70,000 jobs, and have 70 million tons of coal mined each year. If you compare that with the 220 pits in 1980-81, the 210,000 men,

and the projected 190 million tons in the 1974 Plan for Coal, it gives you some idea of the butchery that's taken place and the savage butchery that they intend to inflict on this industry."

Productivity drive

At the same time it is closing some pits, British Coal management is also trying to increase production at others.

The bosses are demanding that the NUM give up its longstanding opposition to a six-day workweek and a nine-hour workday. Now miners work seven and a quarter hours a day on a five-day workweek. Though some maintenance work is done on Saturdays, no coal is mined.

Management also wants to impose "flexible" shifts.

A miner on a flexible schedule would work six afternoon shifts followed by two days off. Then he would work 12 straight days before getting eight days off. Other miners would work a similar rotation, only their days off would be staggered. The end result is the mine would be in constant production.

British Coal has promised to "invest" in new mines if the NUM agrees to the changes.

Disciplinary code

Last summer, British Coal management imposed a new disciplinary code.

The Coal Board, according to Scargill, wants to be able to victimize a miner "on the say so of a scab, or for attending a demonstration or a meeting, for opposing British Coal's plans for any part of the industry, or for trade union activities such as pinning up a notice advertising the time and date of a branch [union local] meeting."

"This is designed to get rid of trade union activists," he said. "It is the most draconian, vicious code of conduct anywhere in the world."

Last fall the NUM membership approved a ban on overtime work until the code is revoked. Management has retaliated by withholding the 4 percent pay raises due NUM members last November.

Breakaway union

Towards the end of the 1984-85 strike, with the encouragement of management, some miners broke away from the NUM and established the UDM. The breakaway was organized by former NUM officials who had encouraged miners to scab on the strike.

The majority of UDM members are concentrated in Nottinghamshire. In some mines, there are both UDM and NUM members.

Last fall management went ahead with pay raises to the UDM while withholding them from the NUM because of the overtime ban.

Scargill said, "The UDM is a creation of the government and the Coal Board. It is being used in a number of ways to divide the miners, including being used to push through six-day working and lower wages," he said.

At the beginning of February, then energy secretary Peter Walker announced that a large new coal-fired power plant will be built in Nottinghamshire. Government officials claim the plant will only burn coal mined by UDM members.

'New realism'

In a recent speech in South Wales, Scargill put the assault on the NUM in the context of the government-employer attacks on Britain's working people.

"A war of attrition is being waged as capitalism in a condition of acute crisis lashes out with increasing ferocity to protect itself," Scargill said. "The existence of this crisis is now clear for all to see. It has been exposed by the recent collapse of the stock markets throughout the capitalist world."

As examples of the crisis, Scargill pointed to Britain's high unemployment, which

was officially 9.4 percent at the end of 1987, Scargill said, "The real figure of unemployment is approximately 20 percent or 4.5 million unemployed."

He also drew attention to the growing numbers of homeless families in Britain, and the education system that "is in chaos, as students and teachers struggle against yet more cutbacks." He noted the government's attacks on democratic rights, including several laws pushed through Parliament aimed at curbing trade union activity.

Scargill said the government's attacks on the NUM are designed to cripple the union, making it easier to turn Britain's mines, which have been nationalized since 1946, over to private owners.

Rather than charting a course to meet the offensive, Scargill emphasized, many union officials and the leadership of Britain's Labour Party "have argued increasingly for a concept known as 'new realism' — a concept that calls for an end to 'confrontation.'" Instead, he said, they seek "a strategy of coalition, collaboration, and compromise to combat the disasters we face today."

Scargill said the so-called new realism, "initially conceived by those in the Communist Party grouped around the magazine *Marxism Today*," has a reflection inside the NUM. During the 1984-85 strike, the new realists "suggested it was our union leadership's uncompromising resistance to pit closures which was to blame." He called attention to several recent articles in the *South Wales Miner* that have called for compromise with the government and the British Coal bosses.

"Their aim," Scargill said, "is to sit down in a smoke-filled room with the Coal Board and do a deal."

Election campaign

When he was first elected president of the union, Scargill promised to run for reelection after five years. NUM presidents are elected for life, so none of his predecessors had ever run for reelection.

After Scargill announced that he was running, the capitalist media waged a hysterical campaign against him. Both Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock opposed his candidacy.

Scargill's opponent, John Walsh, called for negotiations with the bosses for higher wages and benefits in exchange for accepting "inevitable" job losses and changes in working conditions. Walsh claimed that mine closures were a thing of the past.



Striking miners in South Africa last summer. National Union of Mineworkers in Britain supports their appeal for halt to imports from apartheid-ruled South Africa.



"You don't pacify the boss by lying down," mine closures by government. Labor stri-

Scargill spoke to more than 50 coalfield meetings during the campaign. He explained that the government was preparing another round of mine shutdowns.

"My message was simple: you have to stand on your feet rather than crawl on your knees," he said.

"If the bosses say that they're going to close down pits and ax jobs," Scargill stressed, "the way to respond is to take action. You don't pacify the boss by lying down and allowing him to trample over you."

Coal imports and nuclear power

Other planks in Scargill's campaign program called for an end of coal imports into Britain and the closing of the country's nuclear power plants. "The government plan," he said, "is to build up expensive and dangerous nuclear power and at the same time import more coal from abroad, particularly from South Africa, Poland, Australia, and Colombia."

"The NUM wants an end to import of coal which is produced by South African slave labor, an end to the import of coal produced by nine-year-old children in Colombia," Scargill added.

"We want to see an end to nuclear power in the production of electricity. It is more expensive than coal, tremendously so, but obviously also very dangerous in terms of those who work in the industry. Nuclear power is also very dangerous to the environment and a potential hazard as both Chernobyl and Three Mile Island have demonstrated."

Scargill received a 54 percent majority vote, carrying most major mining areas. This included winning by substantial margins in Scotland and South Wales where the NUM top officials have regularly opposed him on the NUM Executive Board.

Walsh got a majority among the skilled cokemen and the power group workers. Walsh also got a high vote from the union's white collar members.

"I was elected by a 70 percent majority in 1981 and reelected by a 54 percent majority vote in 1988," Scargill stated, "but if you asked me which was the best result, I would say without question the result in 1988."

Scargill explained, "To have come through a period as difficult as the one we've seen, it was phenomenal for a man recognized as a leading left figure in Europe, let alone Great Britain, to win the presidency of the NUM."

NUM conference

Issues under debate in the election came to a head at the NUM's special delegates conference on February 2.

On the eve of the meeting, Scargill proposed that the executive board urge stronger industrial action against the disciplinary code. This was rejected by a majority of the board and then by a 56 to 1 vote of the delegates. Instead, the full NUM membership will be balloted again on whether to continue the overtime ban.

Scargill's position carried on the two other issues in debate at the conference. The majority of the board recommended

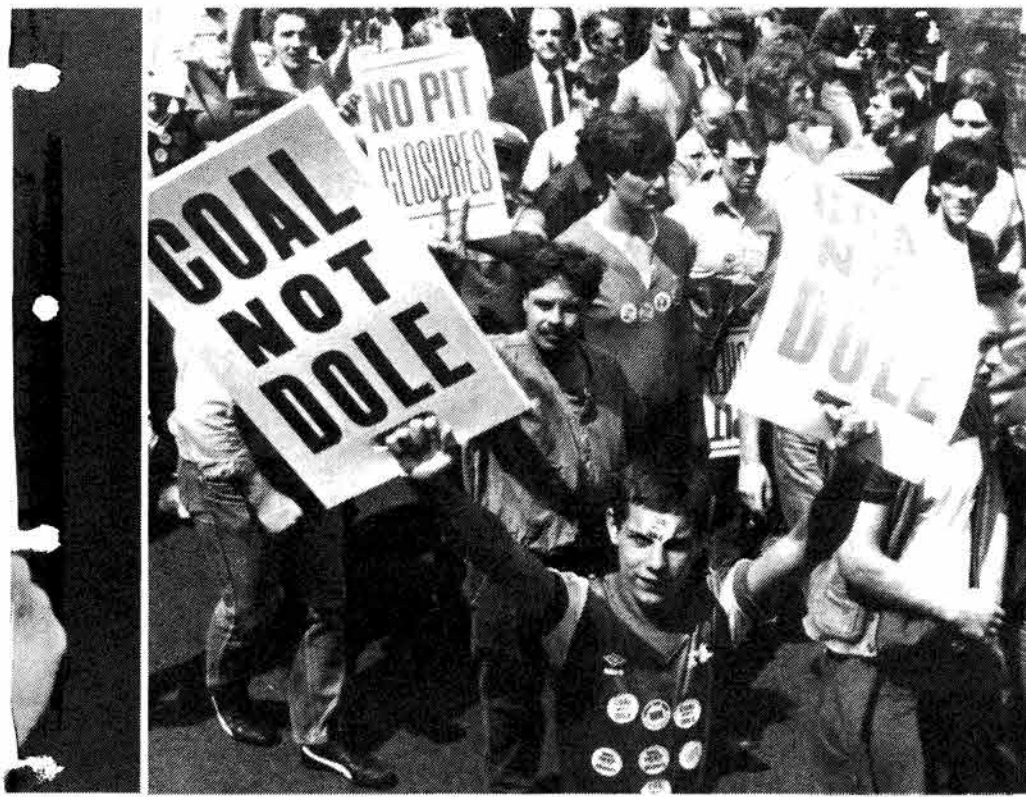
20,000 in Manchester march for gay rights

BY HELEN FLYNN

LONDON — Twenty thousand people demonstrated in Manchester, England, on February 20 in defense of democratic rights for gays. The march was called by the Northwest Campaign for Homosexual Equality to protest Clause 28 of new legislation being introduced by the Conservative government.

Clause 28, if made law, would prevent local councils spending public funds in a way that would "promote homosexuality in a positive light." Under this broad proscription, school teachers could be barred from educating children that homosexuals should not be discriminated against in society. Moreover, Clause 28 would threaten sponsorship for arts that could be interpreted as portraying positive images of gays.

The demonstration in Manchester was supported by lesbian and gay organizations from across Britain; by Black groups, such as the Labour Party Black Section; and by a number of Labour Party and trade union organizations. The angry mood of the march was reflected in its main slogan, "Never going underground."



Photos by G.M. Cookson

says Arthur Scargill, president of National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) in Britain. NUM waged major strike in 1984-85 against pit closures. Protests are again on increase in Britain today, including nurses' protests for more health-care funding.

that the delegates change union policy so that the NUM would begin to sit in on discussions between management and the UDM. Scargill opposed this, and it was rejected by the delegates.

"As far as we are concerned, if they are in a meeting, we're not," Scargill emphasized. "I was delighted that the conference of rank-and-file delegates overturned the executive board and supported my view on it."

The conference also held firm on NUM members continuing to be represented in negotiations and disputes with management by their own union officers in mines where the UDM is the majority.

International Miners' Organisation

The International Miners' Organisation (IMO) was formed in 1985 at Scargill's urging.

There are two major international trade union federations. The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions is dominated by the U.S. trade union officials. The World Federation of Trade Unions is led by officials from unions in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

"If we were serious about having an international that reflected the viewpoint of all miners throughout the world, then it was essential that we broke down the barriers of the 'cold war,'" Scargill said. "My concept was for a new international, which would not be affiliated to either of those two blocs."

Miners' unions from 44 countries are now affiliated to the IMO. They have a combined membership of 5 million. Miners from Britain, France, Spain, Portugal, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Botswana, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, the Soviet Union, Hungary, Afghanistan, India, New Caledonia, China, Nicaragua, Chile, Cuba, and Peru were among those at the IMO conference in Sydney, Australia, last November.

"Just this week, the Egyptians have affiliated," Scargill said.

"One thing that saddens the leadership of the IMO is the fact that the United Mine Workers of America has still not seen the necessity of joining the IMO," he added.

He emphasized that friendly discussions have been held with UMW leaders and that a vice-presidency of the IMO has been reserved for them if they decide to join.

Although the UMW has not affiliated, women miners from the United States, including myself, have attended the last two IMO conferences as observers.

"We were delighted to have women mine workers from the United States there," said Scargill. "They were able to bring to the conference some of the problems and difficulties they are encountering, which when analyzed are not that much different from the problems of mine workers internationally, certainly within the capitalist system."

Representatives from South Africa's National Union of Mineworkers have attended IMO conferences. The Sydney meeting had a special point on the agenda on the fight against apartheid.

"The thing that terrifies the multina-

tional corporations is the IMO's real internationalism," he said. "The fact that it's able to support our South African brothers and sisters with positive action is a very real indication of the power and authority of the IMO."

The United Mine Workers of America has been organizing a boycott of Shell products. Anti-apartheid organizations in South Africa have urged international sanctions against Shell, which supplies much of the oil used by the regime in Pre-

toria.

"I wish the UMWA leadership would have seen fit to come to the conference in Sydney and lead the discussion about the boycott, to help make it a real international boycott," Scargill emphasized.

Scargill has made many trips to Cuba. The British media says he is a fervent admirer of Cuban President Fidel Castro. Scargill pleads "absolutely guilty" to the charges.

"Once you've seen Cuba, you say very

Internationalism, imports, and shorter workweek

I went to Britain for the first time in 1984. The purpose of the trip was to learn directly from British miners about their strike as a step toward helping build support for the NUM back home in my United Mine Workers of America local.

It was apparent right off the bat that NUM leaders like Arthur Scargill and Peter Heathfield didn't sound like U.S. trade union officials who peddle the line that workers and bosses have common interests.

I have heard Scargill speak a number of times since. While taking up the challenges miners face, he also addresses problems of the entire working class.

Last summer, in the days following Margaret Thatcher's reelection to a third term as prime minister, most British trade union and Labour Party officials were licking their wounds over the Labour Party's electoral defeat. They talked about the future with despair.

Scargill took the opposite approach, appealing to Britain's working people to fight future attacks by the Tory government, which he said, only understands "positive organized resistance."

NUM internationalism

The NUM's internationalism is also immediately noticeable to a worker from the United States, where union officials have a great deal of difficulty looking beyond U.S. borders, unless it's to back Washington's reactionary wars.

During their strike, British miners and their supporters in Women Against Pit Closures traveled to many countries talking about their struggle.

And the NUM encourages its members to support the struggles of workers in other countries. The NUM is one of the few unions demanding an end to British occupation of Northern Ireland.

Last month I was able to participate in a NUM-sponsored class at Northern College in Barnsley where U.S. aggression against Nicaragua was being discussed.

I met a miner there who had joined, with union sponsorship, in a work brigade to build houses near Havana, Cuba.

The NUM, as Scargill explains in the accompanying interview, was instrumental in setting up the International Miners' Organisation. The IMO has union affiliates in 44 countries with a combined membership

of some 5 million.

Leaders of South Africa's National Union of Mineworkers have attended IMO conferences. The most recent conference in Sydney, Australia, had a special point on the agenda on the fight against apartheid.

The British mine union raised tens of thousands of dollars for the South African miners during their 1987 strike. Responding to an appeal by miners and the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa, the NUM is urging workers throughout the world to fight against the import of South African coal.

With the rise of the struggle in South Africa, honoring this appeal is an important act of international solidarity.

Halt coal imports?

In the context of the NUM's outstanding record in so many respects, one position stands out in contrast that I find troubling. In his recent reelection campaign, Scargill called for halting all coal imports into Britain. He pointed out that the coal imported into Britain comes from Australia, Poland, South Africa, and Colombia.

While our brothers in South Africa have called for a boycott of coal as well as of all South African products, as far as I know the same is not true of the workers in Australia, Poland, or Colombia.

In Australia, where the recent IMO conference was held, miners explained that they were facing the same crisis as those in the United States and Britain. Mines are being closed and productivity has become the name of the game. "Produce more and work longer hours or you'll lose your jobs when we have to close because we can't compete with the U.S. coal producers," is what Australian miners are being told by the operators.

Interestingly, that is the same argument miners in the United States hear, only in reverse. It's the Australians that are supposedly taking our jobs.

Backing demands for an end to imports pits workers from one country against another and seems to me to contradict the NUM's internationalist approach.

It can play into the hands of the ruling classes in Britain, the United States, Australia, and other imperialist countries who try to get us to see ourselves as "British," "American," and "Australian" workers, rather than as parts of the same interna-

simply 'I've seen the socialist future and it works.'

"When you visit Cuba," he added, "you find that there is no color bar; secondly, there is no unemployment; and thirdly there is a completely free health-care service that gives a standard of health care better than Britain and an educational system that must now be the envy of the world."

"What I am saying is that the principles they have in Cuba, if applied to the United States or Great Britain, would mean such a rise in the standard of life of our people, such a benefit that it would make it almost unbelievable."

"The fact that I know Fidel Castro and I've talked with him, and of course with other leaders of the Cuban government, demonstrates to me that they are practicing socialism, not only in a national but in an internationalist context."

"And that," he concluded "is what makes the Cuban revolution so exciting as far as any socialist is concerned."

Kathy Mickells is a member of United Mine Workers of America Local 2300 in Kirby, Pennsylvania. She attended the International Miners' Organisation Conference on Peace and Disarmament and against Apartheid in Sydney, Australia, in November 1987.

tional working class. They do this to divide us and as a way of trying to bolster their profits and strengthen the capitalist state.

Child labor

Scargill tends to say less about Australia and more about coal imports from Colombia, where nine-year-old children are forced to work in the mines. But I'm not convinced about this example either.

Child labor in the United States and Britain was gotten rid of through struggles of the labor movement that resulted in the toilers winning a measure of control over working conditions.

Calling for an end to imports is not the way to fight this barbaric practice. Instead, we should join with miners and other workers throughout the world to support struggles by our brothers and sisters in Colombia to fight child labor.

Scargill often has spoken out in favor of shortening the workweek to four or four and a half days. Focusing the fight for jobs on this demand unites workers in the coal and other industries with workers who are unemployed. The demand for a shorter workweek helps establish our needs as workers who are part of an international working class. It is a demand directed at the capitalist government, not workers in another country. —K.M.

London

A New International forum...

The Unions' Fightback and the Stock Market Crash

Speakers: Brian Grogan, Communist League; Ford worker; health worker. Fri., March 11, 7 p.m. Friends Meeting House, 173-177 Euston Road, London NW 1. Contribution 50 p.

Why former Kampuchea ruler quit as head of U.S.-backed bloc

BY FRED FELDMAN

Norodom Sihanouk, the former chief of state of Kampuchea, has resigned as head of the rightist coalition opposed to the government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

Armed by Washington, the imperialist-backed Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and the Chinese government, the coalition carries out raids and terrorist attacks against Kampuchea from bases in Thailand.

In resigning his post January 30, Sihanouk stated that his son Norodom Ranaridh would continue to represent his supporters in the coalition and that armed units under Sihanouk's command would continue to attack Kampuchea.

The former monarch announced that he would not continue the negotiations he had opened with Premier Hun Sen of Kampuchea until Vietnamese representatives agreed to participate in them directly.

Sihanouk denounced other leaders of the antigovernment coalition for portraying his talks with Hun Sen as "playing Vietnam's game."

Coalition of fallen regimes

The coalition represents the remnants of several fallen Kampuchean regimes that have united to oppose the present government.

Sihanouk became hereditary ruler of Kampuchea in 1941 when it was a French colony. He governed the country from the winning of independence from France in 1954 until he was toppled by a coup in 1970. Washington backed the coup because of Sihanouk's refusal to fully back the U.S. war in Indochina. (The peninsula of Indochina consists of the countries of Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea.) Sihanouk's faction is one of three groups in the coalition.

The Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) is another component of the coalition. It stems from rightist bands known as the Khmer Serei, backed by the CIA, which supported the overthrow of Sihanouk. The Khmer Serei supported the U.S.-dominated regime of Gen. Lon Nol, which succeeded Sihanouk.

After the coup, the U.S. military invaded Kampuchea in 1970 and carried out years of massive bombing to bolster the

corrupt, repressive Lon Nol government. Despite this, the government was overthrown in 1975 in the course of the defeat of the U.S. war in Indochina.

The strongest force in the rightist coalition is the Khmer Rouge army, headed by Pol Pot, which ruled Kampuchea from the defeat of the U.S. war in 1975 to the beginning of 1979. The Khmer Rouge originated in a wing of the liberation movement that fought the Lon Nol regime. Sihanouk briefly served as titular chief of state under the Khmer Rouge.

The Pol Pot government, which claimed to be "communist," carried out brutal policies that were responsible for the deaths of well over 1 million people. It was toppled by Kampuchean resistance fighters in 1979, with the aid of Vietnamese troops, resulting in the formation of the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

The Vietnamese military intervention followed months of bloody cross-border military attacks on Vietnam by the Pol Pot forces, who laid claim to much of southern Vietnam.

Washington, which backed Pol Pot against Vietnam as the conflict heated up, put strong pressure (together with the Chinese government) on Sihanouk and the KPNLF to forge a coalition with the Khmer Rouge after its forces were driven across the border into Thailand.

In the nine years since the People's Republic of Kampuchea was established, the coalition has waged war against it. But it has failed to prevent the PRK from achieving a significant degree of consolidation and stability.

Rightist bloc makes no headway

In November 1987, Vietnamese officials invited reporters from around the world to observe the withdrawal of 20,000 of its troops from Kampuchea. Although U.S. officials have claimed that this and five previous withdrawals were fakes, they have recently scaled down estimates of the number of Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea (before the latest withdrawal) from 180,000 to between 120,000 and 140,000.

Vietnamese officials say that after the most recent withdrawal, there are less than 100,000 Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea today.

The Vietnamese and Kampuchean gov-



Vietnamese troops leave Kampuchea during 1985 partial withdrawal

ernments say that all Vietnamese troops will be out by 1990, or earlier if a political settlement is reached with Sihanouk and other forces.

A report from the Kampuchea-Vietnam border area in the Dec. 10, 1987, *Far Eastern Economic Review* indicated that the withdrawals are linked to the declining ability of the rightist bloc to pose a military threat.

"Vietnamese soldiers in Battambang [in western Kampuchea near the border with Thailand] said they had seen relatively little fighting since they destroyed a string of guerrilla camps along the Thai-Cambodian border in 1985. . . .

"Diplomats and aid workers in Phnom Penh say they have heard about few guerrilla attacks this year and report that traffic along roads from western Cambodia has picked up in recent months, suggesting that security has improved."

The war "has ground to an eerie silence," reported the January 8 *New York Times*.

The *Times* correspondent described the Khmer Rouge army, the decisive military component of the bloc, as "reported to be in some disarray, rent by internal disagreements among the next generation of commanders."

Sihanouk's supporters say their forces have come under military attack in recent months from both Khmer Rouge and KPNLF units.

Henry Kamm, a *New York Times* correspondent, conceded after a recent visit to Kampuchea: "No Cambodian or foreigner to whom I spoke deviated from the consensus that, as long as Pol Pot and his troops remain in the field, Vietnam will face no significant opposition" in Kampuchea.

Country has massive problems

Despite the failure of the rightists to make substantial headway, however, the country faces massive problems stemming from the destruction wrought by nearly two decades of U.S. aggression, civil war, and aid and trade embargos imposed by the imperialists and their allies.

Although agricultural production in Kampuchea is now approaching pre-1970 levels, the gross domestic product is estimated by the United Nations at only about \$80 per person annually. There is a desperate shortage of educated and skilled personnel. The Pol Pot regime killed many educated Kampucheans, and many others fled or emigrated during nearly two decades of conflict.

Military threats from the rightists and their backers force both the Kampuchean and Vietnamese governments to devote scarce resources to defense. In addition to the open or de facto embargos on aid, loans, and trade imposed by the im-

perialists and their allies, aid from international organizations has been obstructed by the UN's recognition of the rightist coalition's government-in-exile.

These were the circumstances in which Sihanouk moved to open discussions with the Kampuchean government. Previously, the antigovernment forces had insisted that discussion could only take place with the Vietnamese government, dismissing the government of Kampuchea as a "puppet" of the Vietnamese "occupiers."

As the opening of talks approached, the Kampuchean government issued an October 8 declaration offering Sihanouk "a high position in the state" and welcoming all "individuals and groups in the opposition — except Pol Pot and some of his associates — who will return to take part in the national reconstruction."

"Following the withdrawal of the Vietnamese army from Kampuchea," the government stated, "general elections will be held with foreign supervision, and then a coalition government will be set up. . . ."

Negotiations take place

The first meetings between Sihanouk and Hun Sen took place at a village near Paris in December. They issued a joint call for the KPNLF and Khmer Rouge to support a settlement.

Ranaridh, acting as a spokesperson for Sihanouk, said of the other groups in the coalition, "We hope sincerely that as patriots, they will note that the train of peace is in motion and they must jump on."

A second round of talks took place in January.

Sihanouk initially gave a positive assessment of the talks. On January 25, however, his Paris office claimed that Hun Sen had rejected Sihanouk's demands that the Kampuchean government dissolve as a precondition to the establishment of a coalition government with Sihanouk's faction.

The office also alleged that the Kampuchean government turned down Sihanouk's demand that Vietnamese troops now in the country be replaced by a multinational "peacekeeping" force.

Then came Sihanouk's resignation as head of the coalition, the breaking off of the talks, and denunciation of coalition allies for criticizing his role in the negotiations.

In the wake of these events, the Kampuchean government reiterated its call for internationally supervised general elections. "If we are willing to attend a general election, it means we have some hope of winning it," Khieu Kanarit, an official of the governing People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea, told the *Washington Post*. "If we lose an election, it will be our own fault. We have had nine years to consolidate."

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Nicaraguan march supports military draft

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MASAYA, Nicaragua — Beginning February 8, thousands of people took to the streets here in a series of demonstrations that were a strong show of support for the Sandinista government and the military draft. They marched in response to anti-draft protesters who stoned a police station and burned two cars.

The antidraft protest and the counter mobilizations came shortly after the Nicaraguan government restored constitutional rights that had been suspended since the U.S.-backed contra war began. With the lifting of the state of emergency, the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) called on its supporters to mobilize to show support for the revolution and answer opponents of the workers' and peasants' government.

The military draft has been in effect here since 1983. All men ages 18 to 25 must serve for two years.

The FSLN and Sandinista Youth (JS-19) have campaigned to explain the necessity of the military service, and to organize contingents of army volunteers. A majority support the draft and most men report when called. However, some try to evade the military service.

The existence of these draft evaders is a sore point for the majority who do join the army. They and their families have often urged the government to take more forceful measures against those who refuse to serve.

On February 8 army and police teams fanned out in Masaya looking for draft evaders. They detained 180 young men who appeared to be of draft age and weren't carrying proper papers.

Most of those picked up turned out to be underage, exempt for health reasons, or had already completed their military service. They were quickly released once their status was confirmed. Twenty-nine were found to be draft evaders and were sent to an army training camp.

The JS-19 supports the draft roundups, said Juan Bonilla, a leader of the Sandinista Youth in Masaya. "The law has to be enforced. You can't have some youth flouting the law while others serve."

But, he added, the tactics used by the authorities can create "an embarrassing situation. Some of the evaders run and the police have to chase them. People see this and naturally don't like it."

The reaction to the roundup in Masaya was not improved when two young men were roughed up by army recruitment officials. Isidro Ruiz, FSLN organization secretary in Masaya, said that the two had received up to a dozen draft notices without reporting. They resisted being detained and were dragged from their doorways into waiting army vehicles.

This mistreatment "was not correct," Ruiz said. He added that the Ministry of the Interior would determine whether charges would be pressed against the army officials involved.

Antidraft protest

Leaders of the Social Christian, Independent Liberal, and Social Democratic parties seized on the opportunity created by this situation to organize an antigovernment demonstration later that afternoon. They gathered a handful of supporters, including a few relatives of the detained draft evaders, and began to march through Masaya.

By 8:00 p.m. their demonstration had grown to 150 people. They marched to the main police headquarters and the nearby JS-19 office, chanting "Down with the mil-

itary service," "Long live the counterrevolution," and "Death to the Sandinistas."

People in the crowd then began stoning the police and JS-19 offices, shattering windows and doors. They burned a car belonging to a JS-19 leader and another belonging to the Ministry of the Interior.

"The police could have done something, but they didn't," Ruiz said. "They had the orientation of avoiding any serious problems with demonstrators, and so they did nothing."

In a February 11 public speech, Minister of the Interior Tomás Borge instructed the police to continue "to be deeply respectful of the lives and physical integrity of those who provoke them," but in the future to "act energetically — without being arrogant, but also without vacillation — to stop vandalism, illegal acts, and disorders."

Demonstrations for the draft

Other Masaya residents did not let the right-wing provocation go unchallenged.

JS-19 members, including young men who had just volunteered for the army, along with workers from the CECALSA shoe factory and mothers of active-duty soldiers, organized a counterdemonstration of 1,000 that same evening.

"We weren't looking for a confrontation," Bonilla said, "but we wanted to protest against this counterrevolutionary provocation. We wanted to alert the people, to show our support for the draft, and denounce the vandalism."

When the counterdemonstration approached the antidraft crowd, the latter quickly dispersed. However, a brief clash occurred with a few of the antidraft stone-throwers, three of whom were turned over to the police by the demonstrators.

Later that night the police also arrested six members of opposition parties who witnesses said had been leading the antidraft march and inciting the vandalism. They included two former members of the Somoza dictatorship's political police, one of whom had been convicted and imprisoned of participating in a contra terrorist group and was recently released under a government amnesty.

Right to demonstrate

The next evening a small group attempted to hold another antidraft march in Masaya. They were confronted by angry prodraft protesters who dispersed their march.

According to Ruiz, the police also moved in to arrest the organizers, since they did not have a permit and were considered likely to start more violence. However, the organizers fled as the police approached. Six people were arrested, but none were part of the antidraft protest and all were quickly released.

"Anyone can hold a demonstration as long as they request a permit from the police and appoint someone to be responsible for their actions," Ruiz said. There had been an antigovernment march in Managua the previous weekend "where protesters said outrageous things against the revolution. But that is their right. They had a permit and didn't commit any illegal acts and so could march without any problem."

Rallies to support revolution

The FSLN responded to the February 8 antidraft provocation by calling for a mass demonstration in Masaya the next day. Seven thousand turned out in a march that wound through the city for three hours.

The following night, neighborhood celebrations were held throughout Masaya to honor 300 young men who had volunteered for the army that week. Mothers of active-duty soldiers and other neighborhood residents gave bundles of food and other gifts to each of the volunteers.

Three days later, thousands more gathered in Masaya, this time to send off all the 1,000 men from the Masaya region who had just volunteered.

At the rally FSLN leader Bayardo Arce announced that the FSLN would hold more rallies in cities across the country.

"We have said [before] that we are not afraid of civic struggle," he told the crowd. "We told [the opposition parties] to go ahead and organize their public demonstrations, and we will organize ours. We'll show who is the one with the most popular appeal, who has the most strength, who has the people."



Militant/Harvey McArthur
Sandinista soldiers at Subtiava '86 army parade and maneuvers. February 8 demonstrations in Masaya backed military draft to ensure defense of revolution.

—WORLD NEWS BRIEFS—

Laos, Thailand agree to cease-fire in border war

Laos and Thailand agreed February 17 to end a two-month-long military conflict over a disputed border claim. A January 25 statement released by the Laotian embassy in Washington said that the fighting began when Thai military forces entered the disputed territory near the Laotian province of Sayaboury. An estimated 250 people were killed in the subsequent fighting.

Laos bases its claim to the area on a 1907 treaty signed between France and Thailand when Laos was still a French colony. Some press reports have said Thailand stakes its claim to the area on the basis of the same treaty.

In its statement the Laotian government expressed its willingness to meet "without any pre-conditions in order to settle the problem on the basis of equality."

The cease-fire was signed by Gen. Chavalit Yongchaiyudh for Thailand and by the Laotian chief of staff, Gen. Sisavat Keobounphan. In a joint statement they called upon their governments to begin negotiations within 15 days with the aim of settling the border dispute.

Jamaica's foreign debt burden among highest

Jamaica's foreign debt reached nearly \$4 billion in 1987 according to the World Bank. In a report on Third World debt, the bank said Jamaica and Uruguay are tied for 17th place on its list of highly indebted underdeveloped countries.

In addition, the report said Jamaica's economy stagnated between 1980 and 1987. During that period the country's gross national product remained at a standstill. Its exports fell by 2 percent. Even though Jamaica cut imports by 5 percent, it imported \$500 million more in goods than it exported.

Over the next five years Jamaica will pay an estimated \$2.5 billion in debt payments.

According to the bank report, the most indebted country is Brazil at \$114 billion, followed by Mexico at \$105 billion; Argentina owes \$49 billion; Venezuela, \$33 billion; and the Philippines, \$29 billion.

Cuba will not attend Seoul Olympics

Manuel González Guerra, president of the Cuban Olympic committee, said Cuba would not attend the Seoul Olympics, according to a February 16 *New York Times* report. North Korea had de-

manded to be a co-host of the games. Instead, the International Olympic Committee offered to hold five of the games in the north.

Cuba announced its decision January 15, two days before the deadline imposed by the International Olympic Committee. In support of North Korea's unfulfilled demand to be a co-host, Cuba said it would not send its athletes to the games.

González added, however, that Cuba is not boycotting the games. Athletes from several African countries, for example, are training in Cuba for the event.

Threatening retaliation, several members of the Pan American Sports Organization have asserted that the 1991 Pan American Games were granted to Cuba on condition that Cuba participate in the 1987 Pan American Games held in Indianapolis and in the Seoul Olympics.

The eighth summit meeting of the Movement of Nonaligned Countries, of which Cuba is a leading member, passed a resolution calling on the International Olympic Committee to host the games in both north and south. The September 1986 resolution passed in Harare, Zimbabwe, condemned the decision to hold the games only in the south as "an attempt to perpetuate the division of Korea."

Upgrade NATO nuclear arms, Thatcher urges

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher told a February 17 meeting of ambassadors to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization that its nuclear arsenal should be "modernized." NATO is the U.S.-backed military alliance that includes Canada, Britain, and the major European capitalist countries against the Soviet Union and eastern Europe.

"Modernization is a part of deterrence, it is a part of defense. It is totally and utterly absurd to separate out the modernization of nuclear weaponry from the modernization of anything else," Thatcher determined.

The West German government, a member of NATO, has expressed reservations about pressing ahead with a plan initiated in 1983 to modernize short-range nuclear missiles. Bonn wants early talks with the Soviet Union on reducing such weapons, which are mainly deployed by NATO on West German soil.

Short-range missiles with a range of up to 300 miles are not covered by the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty signed by Washington and Moscow last December.

Speech by Nicaraguan Commander Tomás Borge
Women and the Nicaraguan Revolution

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ALABAMA

Birmingham

Behind the U.S. Drive Against Panama. Speaker: Tom Barton, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., March 5, 4 p.m. 1306 1st Ave. N. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

International Women's Day 1988: Where Do We Stand in the Fight for Women's Rights? Speaker: Betsy Farley, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., March 12, 7:30 p.m. 1306 1st Ave. N. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

Dia Internacional de la Mujer/Celebration of International Women's Day. Speakers: Yvonne Meléndez, Hartford 15 defendant; representatives of Casa El Salvador, Palestinian Women's Association, and Central Cultural Nicaragüense. Sat., March 12, 7 p.m. Women's Building, 3543 18th St. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Bay Area Committee for Puerto Rican Hartford 15, Casa El Salvador, Casa Puerto Rico. For more information call (415) 431-4327.

Stop FBI Crimes! A Political Rights Defense Rally. Speakers: Yvonne Meléndez, Hartford 15 defendant; John Studer, executive director, Political Rights Defense Fund; representative of Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador. Sun., March 13, 7 p.m. International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local 34, 4 Berry St. (off Embarcadero). Sponsor: PRDF. For more information call (415) 648-3469.

FLORIDA

Miami

Celebration of International Women's Day. A panel discussion on the role of women in struggle. Speakers: Cynthia Coicou, Haitian activist; Diana Lailani, National Organization for Women, Florida International University chapter; Julie Wolenski, Socialist Workers Party; representative of Free South Africa Coalition. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 5, 6 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2, dinner \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Celebration of International Women's Day. Speakers: Angela Gracia, president, International Students Association at Georgia State University; Kim Hemphill, Georgia Black Students Association; Ellen Berman, Socialist Workers Party, member International Association of Machinists Lodge 709. Sat., March 5, 7:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Political Rights Defense Fund Rally: Protest FBI Spying. Hear opponents of FBI and government spying speak out against violations of democratic rights. Speakers: Rev. Clyde Brooks, Chicago director Southern Christian Leadership Conference; William H. Taylor, president, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union Local 7-507; Elías Castro, Hartford 15 defendant, Puerto Rican independence activist framed up by FBI; Héctor Marroquín, fighting for permanent residence in the United States; labor spokesperson for PRDF. Sun., March 6, 5 to 7 p.m. Reception to follow. United Auto Workers Local 477 Hall, 5808 W Chicago Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: PRDF. For more information call (312) 363-7136.

IOWA

Des Moines

Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution. Ten classes on *Writings and Speeches of Ernesto Che Guevara*. Thursdays beginning February 18. Choice of 12 noon or 6:30 p.m. class. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (515) 246-1695.

Eyewitness Reports from Nicaragua. Discussion and slideshow with Greg Nelson, just returned from technical brigade to Nicaragua, and student leaders from January national student brigade. Sat., March 5. Dinner and slides, 5:30 p.m.; forum, 7 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$2, dinner, \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (515) 246-1695.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

El Salvador: A Movement Is Reborn. Speaker: Maribel Fuentes, U.S. representative of the National Union of Salvadoran Workers. Sat., March 12, 7 p.m. HERE Local 26, 58 Berkeley St., Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Boston Labor Committee on Central America; Massachusetts Labor Committee in Support of Democracy, Human Rights, and Nonintervention in Central America.

U.S. Hands Off Panama! Speaker: Jon Hillson, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sun., March 13, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

The Detroit Housing Crisis. Speakers: City Councilwoman Maryann Mahaffey; Joe Madison, civil rights activist and chairperson of Michigan Leadership Conference; Lee Griffin, tenant organizer, United Community Housing Coalition; Mo Geary, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 12, 7:30 p.m. 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 961-0395.

MINNESOTA

Austin

The Farm Crisis Is Not Over. Speakers: Carl Benson; Don Gooden, farmer, Emmons; Norm Larson, farm activist, Worthington; Henry Zamarron, Socialist Workers Party, former farm worker, member United Auto Workers; representative of Groundswell. Sat., March 12, 7 p.m. 407 1/2 N Main St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (507) 433-3461.

St. Paul

Cuba Today: Eyewitness Report and Slideshow. Speaker: Anne Winkler, Central America solidarity activist. Sat., March 5, 7 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

The Palestinian Upsurge: Eyewitness Account and Panel Discussion. Speakers: Ziad Amra, Palestinian student at University of Minnesota; Argiris Malapanis, Socialist Workers Party; others. Sat., March 12, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

Kansas City

Hands Off Panama. U.S. Military Out! Speakers to be announced. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 5, 4 p.m. 4725 Troost. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (816) 753-0224.

NEBRASKA

Omaha

No Nuclear Waste Dump, No Nuclear Power, No Nuclear Weapons. Speakers: Richard Melia, co-chair of Committee for a Safe Environment, Eastern Nebraska chapter, member International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1972; Mary Rath, co-chair of Committee for a Safe Environment; Lavon Schrant, Nebraskans for a Clean Environment; representative of Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 5, 7:30 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

Southern Africa: Struggle for Liberation. Speakers: Hafine Hatutale, member of South West Africa People's Organisation; Jason Kimnach, Young Socialist Alliance. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 12, 7:30 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

Cuba Today. An 11-part weekly educational series. Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 2 p.m., through April 16. 140 S 40th St. Donation for series: \$1.50. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance, Socialist Workers Party, Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Abortion Rights in Canada: a Victory for Working People. Speaker: Colleen Levis, coordinating committee, Quebec Coalition for Free Abortion on Demand. Translation to Spanish. Fri., March 4, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Super Tuesday: Is This Real Politics? Speaker: Stuart Crome, Young Socialist Alliance, member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 319 T. Sun., March 6. Reception, 5:30 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Stop FBI Spying! Speakers: Héctor Marroquín, Political Rights Defense Fund; Lance Rogers, district chairman, Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks TCU and Local 1472; Father Paul Washington, retired president, Church of the Advocate. Sat., March 12, 7 p.m. Arch Street Methodist Church (corner Broad and Arch). Donation: \$3. Sponsor: PRDF. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

Pittsburgh

International Women's Day 1988: Where Do We Stand in Fight for Abortion Rights? Speakers: Janet Catov, Pittsburgh organizer of National Abortion Rights Action League; Louise Halverson, Socialist Workers Party; others. Sat., March 5, 7:30 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS

Houston

International Women's Day. Speakers: Katherine Arnold, anti-apartheid activist, convicted member of University of Texas 16; Allyson Marceau, Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party. Sat., March 5, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

9th anniversary Grenada revolution

New York City: Celebrate the Ninth Anniversary of the Grenada Revolution. Political Lessons for Today. Speakers: Wilton DeCoteau, Grenada Foundation; Roderick Thurton, professor Queens College; Steve Clark, author, "The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop"; others. March 12, 7:30 p.m. Medgar Evers College Cafeteria, 1150 Carroll St., Brooklyn. For more information: Grenada Foundation, (718) 629-2019, (718) 941-2087. Translation into Spanish and French.

Washington, D.C.: Grenada and Haiti. March 13. Festival, 2 p.m.; panel discussion, 4 p.m. Institute for Policy Studies, 1901 Q. Street, N.W. (DuPont Circle). Sponsors: Grenada Foundation and U.S.-Grenada Friendship Society. For more information: (202) 462-1065 (Grenada Foundation); (202) 234-9382 (Institute for Policy Studies).

London, England: Celebrate 9th Anniversary of the Grenada Revolution. Speakers: George Louison, Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement and former minister in People's Revolutionary Government; slideshow. March 13, 6 p.m. Center for Urban Educational Studies, Lawn Lane, London.

The Fight Against Racist Violence Today. Sat., March 12, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Art and Revolution. Speaker: Mike Alewitz, director of Pathfinder Mural Project. Sat., March 12, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Winning Democracy in El Salvador. New video by Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador. Discussion to follow with representative of CISPES. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 5, 7:30 p.m. 3165 Mt. Pleasant NW. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7688.

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston

Celebrate International Women's Day. Speaker: Joanne Murphy, Socialist Workers Party, member United Steelworkers of America Local 1865. Sat., March 12, 7 p.m. 116 McFarland St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

Morgantown

Malcolm X: His Legacy for Today. Speaker: Greg Jackson, leader of Coalition Against Racist Violence in Pittsburgh, Socialist Workers Party. Film: *El-Hajj Malik el Shabazz*. Sat., March 5, 7:30 p.m. 221 Pleasant St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

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WEST VIRGINIA: Charleston: SWP, YSA, 116 McFarland St. Zip: 25301. Tel: (304) 345-3040. **Morgantown:** SWP, YSA, 221 Pleasant St. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

WISCONSIN: Milwaukee: SWP, YSA, 4707 W. Lisbon Ave. Zip: 53208. Tel: (414) 445-2076.

Our pornographic president — We had no quarrel with a friend who responded to the Swaggart revelations by muttering, "The man's



Harry Ring

obscene." But somehow the phrase seemed more relevant while watching Reagan dip into his mudbucket and come up with the "intimation"

that the embattled Palestinians are being "stirred up" by "terrorists."

Sensitive — AMSTERDAM (AP) The Israeli National Tourist Bureau has canceled an advertisement it was running in Dutch newspapers that said Tel Aviv and Jerusalem were only "a stone's throw" apart.

A veritable prophet — "I suspect that from 50 to 75 percent of all moneys donated to 'religious' activities are totally wasted! Not only are they misdirected, but in many cases they actually go to aid and abet the work of Satan." — Reverend Swaggart in the current

issue of his magazine, the *Evangelist*.

Honor among thieves — That deal to pay Israel protection money not to attack a projected Iraq-Jordan oil pipeline fell through when the builder, the Bechtel company, insisted on a written guarantee. Israel agreed to put it in writing that it would not attack the pipeline — unless, of course, it was provoked.

Look what I found — In 1985 Meese's buddy, E. Robert Wallach pocketed \$150,000 on that Iraqi pipeline deal. But, his lawyer

assures, it was merely a legal fee. Wallach, however, neglected to include it in his 1985 tax return. He did report in 1987 — at the time the special prosecutor expanded the investigation of him.

How about un-Japanese? — A Japanese official favors changing the signs at Tokyo's international airport immigration counters from "Aliens" to something less offensive, perhaps "Non-Japanese." Meanwhile the Japanese supreme court rejected the plea of a Korean resident who objected to the TV practice of reading Korean names according to Japanese pronunciation instead of Korean.

That good old free enterprise — We saw it as a salute to capitalism when companies along the Monongahela took advantage of that Pittsburg-area oil spill to dump some stored up cancer-causing waste material into the river.

Sociology dep't — A University of Michigan study found that unemployment has an adverse impact on health. For instance, the researchers found, life stresses have a greater effect when your're out of work. Also, being broke creates great stress. In fact, they advise, half the bad health problems are due to lack of cash.

Cuba, Nicaragua condemn U.S. anti-Panama drive

Continued from front page

tional Assembly met in emergency session and voted to replace Delvalle. Education Minister Manuel Solís Palma was named the new president of Panama and sworn into office.

Delvalle, who spent several hours with U.S. ambassador to Panama, Arthur Davis, during the night, announced February 26 that despite the National Assembly vote, he still considers himself president of Panama. To underline the point, he announced ambassadorial appointments for several of his supporters. He also called for a general strike, and urged other countries to refuse to recognize the new president and to suspend trade with Panama.

Delvalle has since gone into hiding, but apparently remains inside Panama.

In response to the escalating violations of Panama's sovereignty by Washington, Cuba's Ministry of Foreign Relations issued a statement February 26, which said, in part, "In the last few months the fraternal people of Panama have lived in permanent tension, characterized by attempts at destabilization, pressures, and threats of all sorts carried out by the U.S. administration. These are part of the U.S. policy of

interference and scorn for the most basic norms of respect for sovereignty and self-determination of the people.

"U.S. imperialism's goal," the statement continued, "is no secret to anyone. It cannot accept Panama's honorable action, as a member of the Contadora Group, of participating in efforts to prevent the extension of the Central American conflict and avoid interference in the region."

"The United States is also trying to violate the [1977 Panama Canal] accords, with a view toward prolonging its military presence in Panama beyond the year 2000," the statement said. "The people and government of Cuba reiterate once again their firm solidarity with the Panamanian people. They call on all forces that love peace, independence, and sovereignty of the peoples to stand alert and condemn any interventionist action by the United States, which is trying to act as the owner and master of our Latin American lands, whose sons and daughters cry out today in the most powerful voice: 'Hands off Panama!'"

President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua also issued a strong condemnation of Washington's actions. The February 26 *Barricada* reported that "the president of

Nicaragua assured General Noriega that the Panamanian people, facing threats, blackmail, and the danger of American troop intervention, could count on the militant and combative solidarity of the people of Sandino."

However, opposition to Washington's intervention was not unanimous among Latin American governments. A meeting of foreign ministers from eight Latin American countries, held in Colombia February 24-26, announced Panama's suspension from the Group of Eight. The seven other countries are Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela. The move was made pending "a new evaluation of the circumstances" in Panama.

The Organization of American States, meeting in Washington, D.C., February 27, finally seated Noriega's representative to the body after some dispute. This was not, however, a permanent recognition over Delvalle's representative, who also came to the meeting claiming he was the legitimate delegate from Panama.

Washington has gone into high gear to try to pressure countries throughout Latin America to fall in line behind Delvalle, or-

dering U.S. ambassadors throughout the region to meet with their host governments and organizing similar meetings in Washington.

Fund cut-off threatened

On March 1 the Reagan administration announced its support of Delvalle's call for an economic boycott of Panama to further put pressure on Noriega. This involves freezing Panama's assets outside the country, which would mean the U.S. government refusing to pay the \$7 million owed to Panama next month for operation of the Panama Canal. In addition, Panamanian consulates were told by Delvalle to withhold the shipping fees that Panama receives for registering ships. These fees are a major source of income for Panama.

This economic attack comes on top of the cutoff of U.S. economic and military aid to Panama last summer, which was followed by ending Panama's sugar quota. Washington is also opposing further loans to Panama by any of the international banking organizations. The World Bank recently canceled \$50 million of a loan to Panama, saying that country had refused to meet the bank's conditions.

A general strike called by anti-Noriega business and political figures took place February 29-March 2. While journalists report significant participation by businesses in the strike, it was far from universally observed.

In a February 26 statement, Reagan denied there was any threat of U.S. military intervention in Panama. The 10,000 U.S. troops stationed there have been so far ordered to keep a low profile.

However, a bulletin released by the Nicaraguan Ministry of Defense March 1 reported that Nicaraguan intelligence sources were reporting an extraordinary set of movements by U.S. military forces in the region. These include moving munitions and explosives from Panama to Costa Rica by the U.S. Southern Command, the Panama-based headquarters for all U.S. military operations in Latin America, and an increase in air transport flights from the United States to the U.S. air base Palmerola in Honduras.

Latest So. Africa crackdown spurs defiance



South African gold miner. Unions are a special target of new banning order.

accused the UDF and COSATU of acting under orders of the outlawed African National Congress. The ANC is the organization leading the struggle against the regime and for a nonracial, democratic South Africa.

Justifying the new repressive measures, van der Merwe quoted ANC President Oliver Tambo as calling for the creation of "mass democratic organizations" as part of what van der Merwe called "the revolutionary onslaught."

Neo Mnumzana, ANC chief representative to the United Nations said, "This action betrays the hollowness of the regime's claim that it is committed to reform and committed to dialogue."

A statement by the ANC released from its headquarters in Lusaka, Zambia, called on the people of South Africa "to rise to this new challenge as never before." The statement appealed to the international movement against apartheid to "come to the defense of the democratic movement and trade unions of our country."

"The fact that they have now been proscribed demonstrates clearly that it is not advocacy or engagement in armed struggle that the regime fears but the very expression of democratic opposition and consistent resistance," the statement said.

One of the organizations to have its activities banned is the Release Mandela Campaign. Nelson Mandela, the most prominent leader of the ANC, has been imprisoned by the apartheid regime for just over a quarter century. The decree now makes it illegal to campaign for the release of Mandela and other political prisoners.

The governments of the United States and Britain have criticized the crackdown. But both governments stopped short of proposing that any actions be taken against the apartheid regime. Both Washington and London oppose imposition of political and economic sanctions against South Africa.

The American Committee on Africa, which has organized lobbying and protests

against U.S. government complicity with the apartheid regime, demanded that the Reagan administration immediately impose strong sanctions against South Africa.

The committee's executive director, Jennifer Davis, said in a February 25 statement, "There must be no more ships unloading U.S. computers, no more trade in South African goods, no more banks and shareholders financing apartheid."

Among the other organizations affected by the ban on their activities are the Azanian People's Organization and its youth group; Detainees Parents Support Committee; National Education Crisis Committee; National Education Union of South Africa; South African Youth Congress; and the South African National Students' Congress.

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE 25¢
March 10, 1978

Up against a union-busting offensive by the coal companies and the administration of President James Carter, the nation's coal miners have fought back heroically in defense of job safety, health care, and the right to strike.

But the top labor officialdom has not lifted a finger to aid the miners.

AFL-CIO President George Meany went so far as to lecture Carter for not moving against the miners fast enough. While criticizing the president for failing to halt the strike sooner, Meany turned around and promised, "we won't criticize him" if Carter invokes the strikebreaking Taft-Hartley Act.

The great "labor statesman" then praised West Virginia Gov. John Rockefeller IV, whose family controls billions of dollars in the coal industry. "I think Governor Rocke-

feller has got the answer," Meany said. "He said it very clear . . . seize the mines and operate them under conditions that would get the miners back to work."

THE MILITANT
Published in the Interests of the Working People
March 11, 1963 Price 10¢

Allen Barke, managing director of the Dagenham Ford plant in London, facing a strike because of the wholesale firing of shop stewards, is quoted in an Associated Press dispatch as saying, "We are not hostile to the unions. In fact, what we would like to see are stronger unions — closer to the men on the floor, better able to work with us and to control their members. There could be so much more happiness and prosperity for us all if we could get honest, friendly law and order back into our affairs."

Continued from front page

dates in the history of the struggle against the apartheid regime, such as June 16, the date of the massive Black uprising in Soweto.

The measures also restrict the movements and activities of 18 anti-apartheid leaders including Archibald Gumede and Albertina Sisulu, copresidents of the UDF. Some are banned altogether from working for their organization, writing articles, giving speeches or interviews.

The regime also announced that it would release some detained anti-apartheid leaders on the condition that they are confined under house arrest after work hours.

African National Congress

Pretoria's action comes two months after Security Police Chief Johan van der Merwe

Jobs for all—reduce workweek!

The stock market crash last October was a dramatic signal to working people that a massive worldwide social crisis looms on the horizon.

The U.S. government and the other imperialist powers are trying to forestall a recession through various measures that include adjusting currency values and tinkering with budgets.

None of these steps will hold the crisis off for long. Workers increasingly sense that the coming recession will result in tens of millions being thrown out of work. This will be accompanied by big jumps in homelessness, malnutrition, and disease. The devastation will be especially acute in the colonial countries suffering under a heavy debt burden and in those sectors of the working class in the imperialist countries that are already impoverished.

Even now, before the crisis explodes, there is widespread joblessness in many of the advanced capitalist countries.

New Zealand has its highest unemployment rate since the 1930s. At the end of 1987 some 8,000 workers, in a country of 3.3 million, were joining the ranks of the unemployed each month.

Japan, long touted as an "economic miracle," has over 1.6 million unemployed.

Millions more are out of work in Europe. There is 20.4 percent unemployment in Spain, 14.8 percent in Italy, 12.1 percent in Belgium, 10.4 percent in France, 9.4 percent in Britain; and nearly 9 percent in West Germany.

Ireland has a 20 percent unemployment rate. In the last two years, 60,000 youths have left the country in search of jobs.

Millions are not counted in "official" government unemployment figures in most countries, including the United States. They include young workers who have never been able to get a job, workers whose unemployment compensation has run out, and undocumented workers who do not report to unemployment offices out of fear of being deported.

Official unemployment in the United States was 5.8 percent in January. Even by Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) calculations this adds up to 8 million people without jobs.

The BLS says 12 percent of all Blacks, or 1.6 million, are unemployed. By the government's count, more than 34 percent of Black youth 16 to 19 are without work.

Another 20 million in the United States are forced to work part-time jobs that average only 22 hours a week.

While at least 28 million are either out of work or un-

deremployed, the ruling rich are forcing workers in basic industry to put in overtime.

Auto workers at Ford work 3 million hours of overtime a month. This amounts to an average 47-hour workweek per worker.

Coal miners and oil workers are averaging at least 45 hours a week. Paperworkers, 44.

Though millions of workers now sense that the jobs they have may only be "temporary," the crisis won't hit everywhere evenly. Those already suffering the most will bear an even greater burden in the future. This will be the case for inner-city Black and Latino communities and regions of the country like Appalachia that already have much higher unemployment than the national average.

The deepest division in the working class is between the employed and jobless. This division will be exacerbated as the crisis explodes and job competition intensifies.

The trade unions should lead a fight for the immediate implementation of a program that can address the problem of unemployment and unite the working class.

This should be centered around a political fight to have the workweek shortened without a reduction in pay. That would immediately spread the available work to millions more workers.

A fight for a shorter workweek also can become an international rallying cry. Public sector workers and rail workers in Germany are currently on strike demanding a 35-hour workweek. Other unions there have been raising this demand for several years.

Unions in Japan are also demanding a shorter workweek. By law the current workweek in Japan is 48 hours.

An emergency program for the crisis must also include the fight to expand affirmative action programs. Demanding that Blacks, women, Latinos, and other especially oppressed sectors of the working class be upgraded in hiring, training, and promotion — and have a measure of protection in layoffs — is in the interests of all workers and a necessary prerequisite for uniting the working class.

The labor movement should also demand that millions of new jobs be created through a massive government-funded public works program to build desperately needed low-cost housing, hospitals, child-care centers, and schools.

By championing these demands, the unions can unite those with jobs, the underemployed, and the unemployed in an effective nationwide political fight against the government to protect the entire working class against the effects of the capitalist crisis.

Is Democrats' contra aid plan a 'lesser evil'?

BY DOUG JENNESS

The Democratic-backed proposal to give the Nicaraguan contras \$30 million has provoked a debate among organizations throughout the country involved in the fight against U.S. intervention in Central America. The article from Seattle on page 6 describes the lineup of many groups in that city behind the Democrats' aid package.

Similar differences are being expressed by national organizations.

When I called the Coalition for a New Foreign Policy hotline in Washington, D.C., they said it was necessary

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

to support the proposal as a "tactical necessity to avoid military aid" that the Reagan administration is promoting.

The Nicaragua Network's hotline, also in Washington, took a different stance. Its message stated, "No aid to the contras is acceptable."

Many activists complain about the "moral dilemma" the Democratic aid plan has put them in, but support it as a "lesser evil" or "realistic tactics." Others say they oppose it, but urge no action be taken against it.

This failure to unequivocally wage a fight against all proposed funds to the Nicaraguan mercenaries is a shameful capitulation and a disservice to the struggle against U.S. intervention in Nicaragua.

There is not a wide margin of difference between the Democratic and Republican aid proposals. Both would help keep the contras in the field. And both are lethal. All aid to these murderers and terrorists — whether it's C rations, boots, arms, or ammunition — is deadly.

It's like saying a little arsenic with a spoonful of sugar is better for you than a bit more of the poison without the sweetener.

To accept the Democratic proposal, even for "tactical" reasons, is to permit the debate to be shifted to how much and what kind of aid, rather than whether the contras should get any funds at all. And it reinforces the contention of both Democrats and Republicans and the editors of the big-business press that some pressure must be brought to bear on the Sandinista government during the current negotiations.

Far from being effective in combating the Reagan administration's demand for more aid, this "tactic" helps grease the skids for increased assistance to the contras.

It will encourage the Reagan administration and those in Congress who are pushing for more aid to demand even more, not less. And when the congressional liberals bend to this pressure, those in the anti-intervention struggle who've been supporting the "lesser evil" are likely to get swept along too — further and further to the right.

The dilemma confronting many in the fight against Washington's intervention in Central America is that their orientation has been one of relying on legislators — on electing the "right" ones and then concentrating on lobbying them to vote against contra aid. The problem is that, while some of these activists have the illusion that they're the dog wagging the tail, they, in fact, are the tail that's being wagged.

As long as the liberal congresspeople know they have the support — even if "critical" — of anti-intervention organizations and leaders in their hip pockets, they will be far more responsive to pressures from conservative pro-contra aid forces in Congress and the administration.

All Democratic and Republican congresspeople do have one thing in common that's more important than their differences. They place U.S. "national security," which can be translated as the interests of the capitalist rulers, ahead of the sovereign rights of the Nicaraguan or any other people.

The only effective orientation to bring about an end to Washington's contra war — thus being the biggest help to the Nicaraguan people — is organizing a fight independent of legislative and electoral considerations.

We can have only one starting point: opposition to U.S. intervention and defense of the right of Nicaragua to self-determination.

We should not count on the votes of "friendly" legislators, but rather mobilize as many people as possible — unionists, farmers, students, and others — to carry out a campaign of education, meetings, and demonstrations.

Knowing that we can't be bought, bossed, or maneuvered by anybody, will place the greatest pressure on the White House and all the lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

Moreover, this orientation will give us confidence in ourselves and our own strength, which can help prepare us for the struggle to get rid of the capitalist warmakers once and for all.

Let Cuba dance troupe into U.S.!

The 1,052-seat Tropicana Nightclub in Havana, Cuba, is an internationally known night spot. Its flamboyant show features lots of costumes and dancing, with salsa, rumba, and African music. A version of the show is doing a six-month tour of Europe.

U.S. audiences, however, aren't allowed to see the Tropicana troupe perform.

Why? The State Department is refusing to issue visas to 54 Tropicana singers, dancers, and musicians who want to tour the United States.

"It's been this way since October 1985," Donna Shireman of the Bureau of Consular Affairs in New York told the *Miami Herald*.

She was referring to the Oct. 4, 1985, proclamation by President Ronald Reagan denying entry to the United States to Cuban government employees and members of the Cuban Communist Party, as well as those considered as such by the State Department.

The problem with the Tropicana performers, said Shireman, is that they "would have been traveling with official passports as representatives of the government of Cuba."

Their Manhattan promoter, Paul Trautman, responded, "If this were ballet or classical music, it would be all right. Because it's ethnic music, the State Department says it isn't culture."

Trautman has been working on bringing the Tropicana troupe to the United States for two years, and is appealing the State Department refusal.

"The State Department gives us a different reason every time we call. First it was too high-profile an event, then it was not cultural enough," and now it's the Reagan administration decree, he told the *Herald*.

"The State Department does not want to see something from Cuba that might get decent press," added Trautman.

Shireman is certainly correct in pointing out that the undemocratic exclusion of these performers is nothing new. The October 1985 ruling has been used to sharply escalate the practice of denying visas to specially invited Cuban guests who were previously admitted. Mathematicians, pediatricians, economists, bank officials, baseball coaches, filmmakers, engineers, musicians, sports writers — the list is long of those who have been denied entry or had their visas delayed past departure time.

Nor is going to Cuba to see the Tropicana — and the gains of the revolution — an alternative for U.S. citizens; with few exceptions, Washington bars travel to Cuba.

This unconstitutional restriction on the right to travel has only one purpose: to prevent people in the United States from getting facts about Cuba, and to prejudice them against Cuba and its social, economic, and political achievements.

It's cut from the same cloth as Washington's attempts to close down the United Nations mission of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the refusal to allow Tomás Borge and other leaders of the Nicaraguan revolution to speak directly to the people of the United States.

But this policy of banning relations with a whole people because of the socialist society they've decided to build and the internationalist foreign policy they've decided to pursue is being dealt some blows.

The recent decision by the Immigration and Naturalization Service to drop efforts to deport author Margaret Randall because of her writings in support of the Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions reflected the increasing opposition to thought-police control of the traffic across U.S. borders.

The Tropicana performers should be let in, complete with their 240 costumes and 190 headaddresses. And the ban on all Cuban visitors should be immediately lifted, along with ending Washington's unconstitutional restrictions on the right of U.S. citizens to travel to Cuba.

St. Louis auto worker meets Ford strikers in Britain

BY JOE ALLOR

EAST LONDON, England — Shortly before the strike in Britain against Ford Motor Co. ended, I joined a group of workers picketing in front of the giant Dagenham plant here. There were many signs and posters demanding that Ford settle the dispute. As a fellow auto worker, I got a warm greeting.

(Ford workers returned to work February 22 after voting to ratify a two-year pact. Ford dropped its demand for the inclusion of work-rule changes in the national contract, agreeing to refer these to local negotiations. The

UNION TALK

pact included an immediate wage hike of 7 percent retroactive to November, and an increase in the second year of at least 7 percent.)

During a day on the picket line, I was struck by the many common problems that face these workers and workers in the United States.

"Ford can afford the whole claim," said Ned, a shop steward from the plant's paint, trim, and assembly department. ("Claim" is the term in Britain for union contract demands.) Ned cited the company's big profit margin.

Many workers came from the West Indies and India, as well as other parts of the world. Aziz, who served as cook and picket organizer for the strike, told me that their demands were "modest and fully attainable with the strength of the union."

Ron, an assembly worker who had been very active in the strike, told me, "The part of the claim that was very important to me was the demand for a 37-hour work-week." He said that auto workers in West Germany had won this and thought British workers could too. This demand was not won in the agreement.

Three workers also came to the picket line that day from Genk, Belgium. Because of the strike, the Ford plant in Genk had been shut for lack of parts. The Belgian workers came over to offer solidarity.

The picketing Ford workers invited me to a meeting that evening of their branch (local) of the Transport and General Workers Union. I was given the floor to bring a message of solidarity from members of the United Auto Workers local at the Chrysler plant in Fenton, Missouri, where I work.

At one point I listed a number of countries where Ford exploits workers, just as the company does in Britain and the United States. Shouts from the branch floor added the names of several countries where Ford operates that I hadn't known about.

Workers from the nurses' union and the Land Rover car plant came to offer solidarity and invited Ford workers to aid their coming fights with the government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Both the National Health Service and the Land Rover car plant are run by the British government.

Joe Gordon, chief negotiator for this Ford workers' branch, spoke about the need to have more rank-and-file input in decision-making at the national union level. Many different ideas about this were put forward from the floor.

Some thought procedures for electing officers needed to be improved. Others thought getting better leaders was the main thing.

From this discussion, I realized that British unionists' are thinking about some of the same problems union members are facing in the United States.

After a majority voted nationally to accept the Ford contract, I took a train up to Liverpool to meet with John Bohanna, senior shop steward at the Ford plant in Halewood. He discussed with me what Ford workers are up against in the north of England.

Bohanna told me how the Halewood and Dagenham workers had organized successfully to get their work-week down from 40 hours to 39. He was surprised when I told him that as the result of mandatory overtime, the average U.S. auto worker works 47 hours a week. Many work much more than that.

Despite a unanimous call from the shop stewards committee for a no vote on the contract, Halewood workers voted overwhelmingly to settle.

"As a Ford worker, I think it wasn't a total loss," Bohanna told me, "but if we had held out longer we could have won the whole claim. But as a British worker, I think we handed the Thatcher government a defeat. The 7 percent raise we got and the contract backdated to November (which is really only 18 months instead of the three years the company demanded) will now be the starting point for other unions in the contract negotiations coming up."

He wished me well, we exchanged addresses, and he offered solidarity to Chrysler workers in the United States in their upcoming contract fight.

LETTERS

Australia

I am writing to the *Militant* to congratulate you on your very good article on the Black struggles around Australia Day 1988 by Megan Martin in the February 12 issue of your paper.

I marched and demonstrated with Black sisters and brothers from 7:00 a.m. on that day.

In the early morning march, from the Sydney suburb of Redfern, all the way for three hours to the Lent Embassy opposite the Opera House, we were led in militant and loud chants by Blacks. The cops stopped us four times, so we sat down and then broke through.

I have been marching and demonstrating and fighting in this country for more than 25 years and Jan. 26, 1988, felt like it was all really worth the effort.

M.M.

Brighton, Australia

Occupied territories

I note with some surprise that in the February 26 *Militant* Doug Jenness insists that the West Bank and Gaza are not "occupied territories" but are really "parts of Israel," although "they have not been formally annexed into Israel."

In fact, East Jerusalem, which is part of the West Bank, has been formally annexed by Israel along with a substantial belt of land around the city. This aside, one wonders whether Jenness' sudden enthusiasm for the territorial concept of Greater Israel will next find him calling the West Bank "Judea and Samaria."

David Finkel
Detroit, Michigan

Soft cop

The duplicity of majority leader Sen. Robert Byrd and the Democratic Party with regard to continued funding of the Nicaragua contras is almost unbelievable.

Having recognized and accepted the viewpoint of the majority of Americans that the contras are a bunch of mercenaries doing the bidding of the Nicaraguan oligarchy and multinational corporations, the U.S. House voted to stop all aid to them. Now the Democrats are proposing to continue bolstering the contras with material supplies so they can continue to kill and maim innocent people.

To me it is obvious — the Democrats, by and large, play the role of soft cop, while the Republicans play the role of the hard cop, to please their masters — American Big Business. Only a new party in office, a Labor Party, would legislate in the best interests of the American people. A Labor Party would recognize the fundamental and inalienable right of all people to freedom and self-determination, without U.S. interference.

Joseph Carroll
Newark, New Jersey

Native Americans

I would like more on Native Americans. Did the government plan to relocate thousands of Native Americans materialize, or were people successful in fighting it?

These people deserve the support of unionists, minorities, gays, and others. The Civil Rights Act would not have become a reality without the participation of whites and Blacks.

N.D.S.
Chicago, Illinois

'Indefinitely idled'

General Motors announced January 19 that the Leeds auto assembly plant in Kansas City, Missouri, will be "indefinitely idled" on April 15. Some 1,400 members of United Auto Workers Local 93 will be laid off. Almost 2,700 production workers were laid off last February when the second shift was eliminated.

GM claims that this is not a plant closing, and this view is echoed by the local union leadership. Dennis Stanley, chairman of Local 93, says the union would consider challenging the move if it were a plant closing. GM is supposedly barred from closing any plants until our current national contract expires in 1990.

While local GM officials and the union were lobbying GM headquarters to bring production back to the Leeds plant, workers who were laid off earlier have begun to run out of supplemental unemployment benefits, which are supposed to amount to 95 percent of regular pay. SUB benefits have now been cut, and stories of repossession and home foreclosures have appeared in the local press.

Last year Local 93 ratified a

concession contract that introduced the "team concept" at Leeds. The local union officials posed this as a way to save the plant. GM's response was to cut out the second shift. Auto workers, like other workers, are learning that concession contracts, new plants, and job-security schemes will not save our jobs.

"What now?" is the question on the minds of Leeds workers.

Alvino Carrillo
Kansas City, Missouri

Presidential campaign

It's high time the Socialist Workers Party enter its candidates into the presidential election! The candidates of the rich are campaigning full swing, yet very few workers or students who I meet even know who they are. It would seem that left views would receive a much wider audience this year than any time in this generation.

The authoritative leadership of the left has broadened quite a lot in the last few years. The SWP could consider supporting a nonparty ticket, such as a Native American or farm worker for office — say Wabun-Inini (Vernon Bellecourt), or Tomas Villanueva.

Nevin Siders
Columbus, Ohio

Rainbow Coalition

A lot of activists in the peace and solidarity movements here look to the Rainbow Coalition and Jesse Jackson campaign as the road forward.

My position is that the Rainbow is an alliance with the Democratic Party and the rich it represents. Such an alliance with one of the parties that carries out the war policies of our government and policies against working-class people and farmers is a detour from people using their organized strength.

I would like to see some articles on this in the *Militant*.

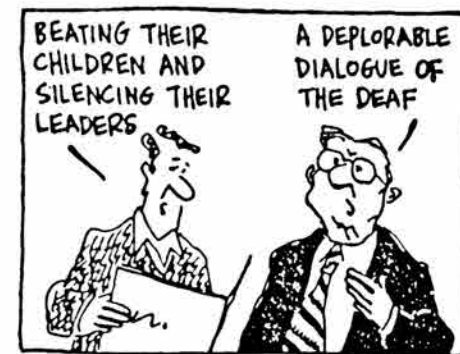
Bronson Rozier
Louisville, Kentucky

Lenin

I am a Jamaican student studying in Czechoslovakia at the Prague School of Economics.

I agree with the position taken by Bill Breihan from Milwaukee in his letter to the *Militant* (January 22) regarding the portrait of Lenin in the Pathfinder mural.

I would submit that Lenin was the greatest revolutionary leader of



Wasserman

all time. Certainly his contributions, considered in their own right, merit a portrait on the same order as those of Dobbs, Bishop, Martí, and Mother Jones.

B.F.
Prague, Czechoslovakia

Correction

The March 4 *Militant* article "Communists discuss world politics, Cuba, perspectives in Britain" said that Cuban President Fidel Castro spoke before the

Nonaligned movement in October 1979. It should have read, "Castro spoke before the United Nations as the head of the Nonaligned movement in October 1979."

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

March hits racist kidnapping, rape

New York governor threatens victim, lawyers for not aiding fake inquiry

BY SAM MANUEL

NEW YORK — "No justice, no peace!" chanted 1,000 mostly Black demonstrators marching in a light snow in Poughkeepsie, New York. The march was one of several that have taken place in Dutchess County to protest the abduction and rape of a Black high school student.

On Nov. 24, 1987, Tawana Brawley, 15 years old, was abducted, beaten, raped, and sodomized by six white men. One of the men had a badge, and told Brawley he was a cop.

Brawley was found four days later, partially naked and wrapped inside a plastic bag. Patches of her hair had been pulled and cut from her head. Excrement had been rubbed onto her head and body. The word "nigger" had been written on her stomach and the letters "KKK" across her chest. She was unable to walk.

The protesters also condemned New York Gov. Mario Cuomo and other state officials for their attempt to handle the case in a routine manner.

When Alton Maddox and C. Vernon Mason, attorneys for the Brawley family, demanded that Cuomo appoint a special prosecutor for the case, the governor refused. Cuomo stated that to do so would supersede the local district attorney without cause.

Maddox and Mason emphasized that no local prosecutor could carry out a good-faith investigation of the case because a major figure in Dutchess County is believed to be involved in some manner in the attack against Brawley.

Incidents and the initial investigations surrounding the case appear to support the lawyers' contention.

Four days after Brawley was found, a policeman, Harry Crist, shot himself to death. State investigators said that Crist killed himself because he failed an exam to become a state trooper. But a suicide note

left by Crist was taken by authorities as evidence in the Brawley case.

Some numbers from the license plate of a car seen around the time Brawley was found, and in the same vicinity, matched those of a car owned by Crist.

The head of the Dutchess County sheriff's department, Fred Scoralick, has also been questioned. Several days after the attack on her, Brawley picked Scoralick's name out of a newspaper story and scribbled, "I want him."

Another person questioned is Tommy Masch. He fits the description of one of Brawley's assailants. Masch carries what looks like a badge, drives a used patrol car, and often turns up at accidents and fires. Asked if he is involved in the case, Masch told *New York Newsday* February 26, "I can't say I'm not connected to the case. I can't say nothing."

Cuomo appointed New York State Attorney General Robert Abrams as special prosecutor when two Dutchess County prosecutors withdrew from the case citing "conflict of interests." According to Maddox, one of the prosecutors, David Sall, told the judge that "no person locally could investigate this case because of a conflict of interest that seems to have pervaded the entire community."

When Abrams handed over the day-to-day responsibilities for the case to an assistant, Maddox and Mason advised the Brawley family to refuse to cooperate with the investigation. A short-lived agreement to cooperate with the investigation was reached when Cuomo assured Maddox and Mason that Abrams would be directly involved in the case. This broke down after Abrams refused to give similar assurances in a subsequent meeting.

Maddox and Mason have stressed that Abrams' direct involvement in the key phases of the case is necessary in order to bring the full weight of the state to bear on



Impact Visuals/David Vita

One thousand marched from Dutchess County Courthouse in Poughkeepsie, New York, to sheriff's office on February 27 to protest rape of Tawana Brawley.

behalf of Brawley. Cuomo commented from Albany on February 23, "I think we've done everything we can reasonably do. They wanted more. The difficulty with more is at some point we have to say, 'Look we cannot let you tell us how to try the case.'"

Cuomo's idea of how to try the case became clear the following day. The governor announced that he had urged Abrams to take "whatever legal devices are available" to gain Brawley's cooperation in the investigation. Cuomo said the grand jury should require "all those likely to have relevant evidence, including Tawana and her family," to cooperate fully. Glenda Brawley, Tawana's mother, said the family will cooperate as soon as Cuomo appoints "someone who is going to handle the case properly."

According to a February 27 *New York Times* report, Maddox and Mason have demanded that Abrams be removed as special prosecutor. Mason also said they would turn to federal officials if Cuomo refused to remove Abrams.

A 50-year-old Black woman in Newton, New Jersey, was attacked in a similar manner to Brawley on February 8.

Hildegard Smith was assaulted in the stairwell of her apartment building by two white men. The attackers rubbed her with feces, chopped her hair, and marked an "X" on her head. The thugs repeatedly shouted, "We don't want any niggers in our town."

In a news conference white and Black residents of Newton expressed their alarm at the violent attack.

Meetings on Grenada to mark revolution's 9th anniversary

BY STEVE CLARK

Events marking the ninth anniversary of the revolution in Grenada will take place this month in the Caribbean and Central America, the United States, and Western Europe.

The March 13, 1979, revolution brought to power a workers' and farmers' government headed by Maurice Bishop, the central leader of Grenada's New Jewel Movement. In October 1983 the government was overthrown and Bishop and other leaders of the revolution were assassinated in a counterrevolutionary coup organized by Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard. The coup opened the way a week later for a U.S. invasion that reinstalled a pro-imperialist regime on the island.

In Grenada itself, an afternoon political rally and cultural and sporting events are scheduled for March 13. The event will be held in the town of Gouyave. It is sponsored by the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) and Maurice Bishop Youth Organization (MBYO).

In Cuba a meeting will be held in Havana on March 14 sponsored by the MBPM and MBYO branches there.

An event in Managua, Nicaragua, will feature Grenadian revolutionist Don Rojas. Rojas was press secretary to slain Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and is currently the MBPM's representative in Havana.

In the United States meetings will be held in New York City and Washington, D.C. (For the time and place of these meetings and the London, England, event, see the calendar on page 12.)

The March 12 meeting in New York is

sponsored by the Grenada Foundation, MBPM Support Group, Committee Against Repression in Haiti, the Socialist Bloc (Dominican Republic), Dominican Workers Party, Young Socialist Alliance, Caribbean Student Union at Brooklyn College, and Center for Caribbean Studies at Medgar Evers College.

The Washington, D.C., event on March 13 is sponsored by the Grenada Foundation and U.S.-Grenada Friendship Society. The program will focus on the political situations in Grenada and Haiti today.

In Britain the MBPM Support Group will hold a meeting on the evening of March 13 featuring George Louison. Louison was a political bureau member of the New Jewel Movement that led the 1979 revolution and was minister of agriculture in the government. In October 1983 he helped organize the mobilizations by Grenadian workers and farmers to resist Coard's counterrevolution.

In Amsterdam, The Netherlands, a day-long public conference will be held March 18 on, "The Future of the Progressive Movement in the Caribbean Basin." George Louison is a scheduled speaker, along with M.C. Arguello, a secretary in the Nicaraguan embassy, and a spokesperson for the Hartford 15 Puerto Rican defendants in the United States.

The Amsterdam meeting will be followed by a two-day conference of Grenada solidarity committees in Europe. The events will be held at the University of Amsterdam. (For more information, phone Sandew Hira, 70-636-728 in The Hague.)

Coard supporters' meeting condemned

Leaders of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement of Grenada (MBPM) are condemning a conference scheduled for London, England, March 11-13 by political supporters of Bernard Coard, who organized the October 1983 counterrevolutionary coup.

Billed as an "international conference," the featured speakers are Chris De Riggs, a former member of the New Jewel Movement Central Committee; Richard Hart, former attorney general in the People's Revolutionary Government; Grenadian trade unionist Chester Humphrey; and Trevor Munroe, general secretary of the Workers Party of Jamaica. All have been outspoken apologists for Coard's political course.

MBPM leader Terry Marryshow told the *Militant* that the current issue of the MBPM's newspaper, *Indies Times*, carries an article condemning conference organizers for falsely parading as the continuity of the New Jewel Movement.

"Coard's followers have no right whatsoever to the NJM, which was buried along with Maurice Bishop and other revolutionaries on October 19, 1983," Marryshow said.

It is the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement, he said, that is working to keep alive the revolutionary political legacy of the NJM under Bishop's leadership.

Coard's political supporters are so discredited among the Grenadian people,

Marryshow said, that they have not been able to organize a single public event on the island. The MBPM, on the other hand, drew some 2,000 people to an anniversary rally last October 19 as part of its "relentless struggle for Grenada's sovereignty and independence."

The London conference was also condemned in a statement issued by the branches of the MBPM and Maurice Bishop Youth Organization in Cuba.

The name of the London conference, "Grenada: Toward Anti-Imperialist Unity," is a misnomer, the statement points out. Coard's counterrevolutionary coup dealt a blow to anti-imperialist unity.

It is the MBPM that is a member of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America, formed by some 37 political organizations at a June 1984 conference in Havana.

The statement noted that neither the Sandinista National Liberation Front, Cuban Communist Party, nor other revolutionary organizations from the Caribbean were participating in the so-called international conference.

The true aim of the conference, the statement said, "is to continue the cover-up and exoneration of those responsible for the counterrevolutionary crimes of October 1983 and to end their political isolation." The statement expressed its confidence that these efforts "will ultimately fail." — S.C.